



KABIR

He rebelled against the established institution of religion. He spoke strongly against blind faith and ritualism. Kabir, who belonged to neither Hindu god nor Muslim wrote his couplets urging people to rise against orthodox thought. Kabir's words can still iron out religious differences between communities and destroy pointless pride. Everyone, he said, is equal and all gods are one. So difficult was this for the people of his time to understand that some of them resolved to be rid of him.


OTHER ACK VISIONARIES:

 **KALIDASA**



 **MIRABAI**



 **SOORDAS**



 **TULSIDAS**




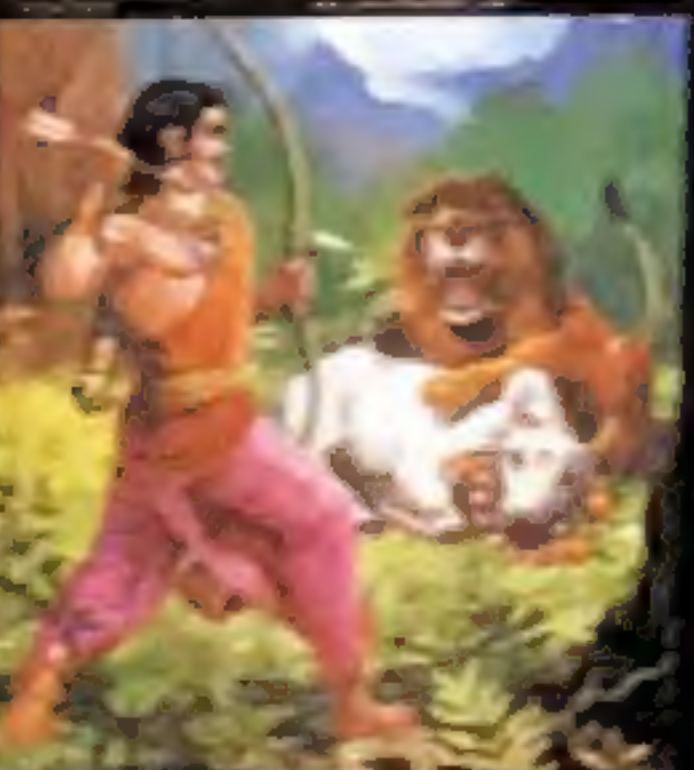
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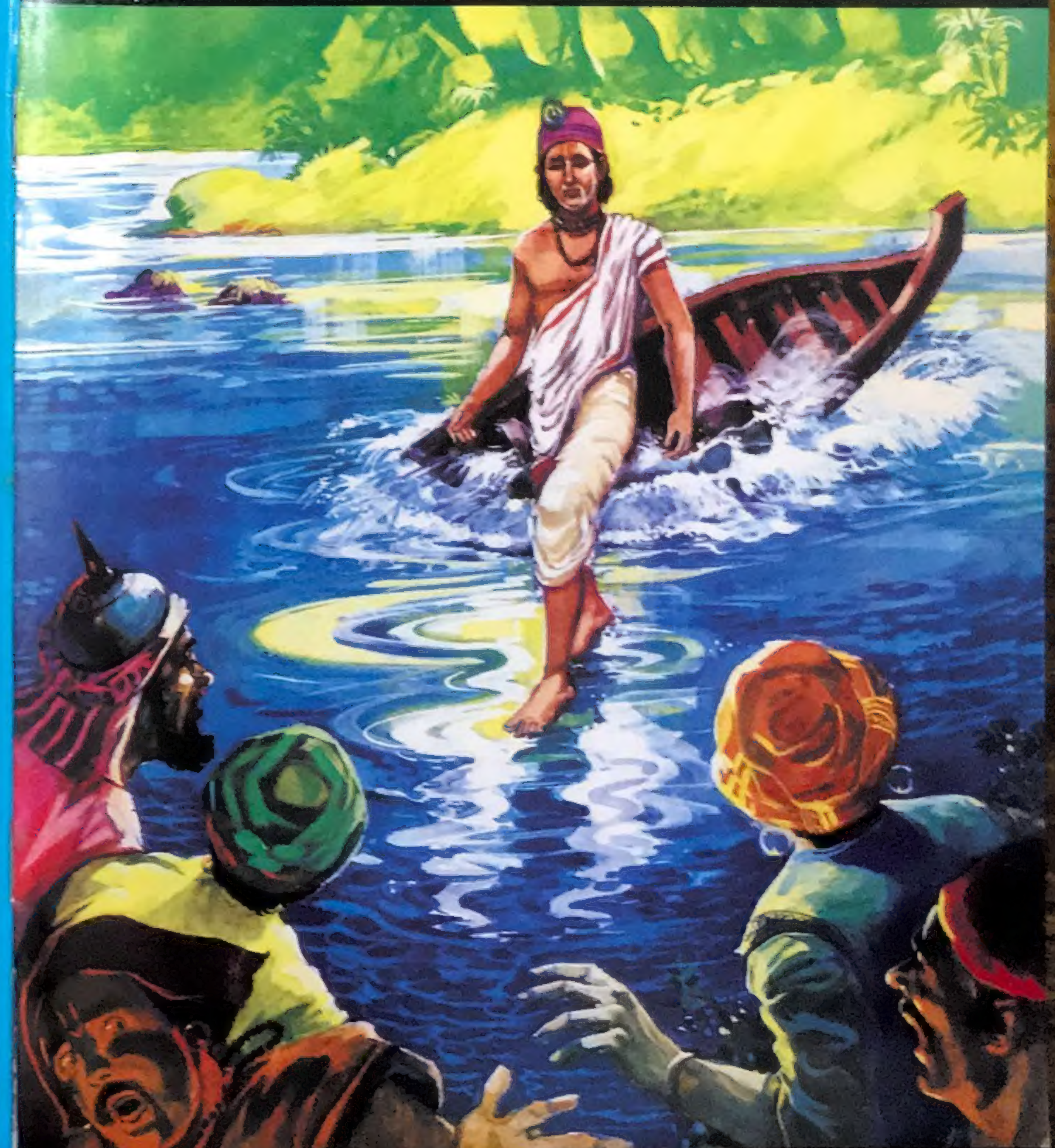
VISIONARIES



KABIR

HE SPOKE OF TOLERANCE AND MERCY

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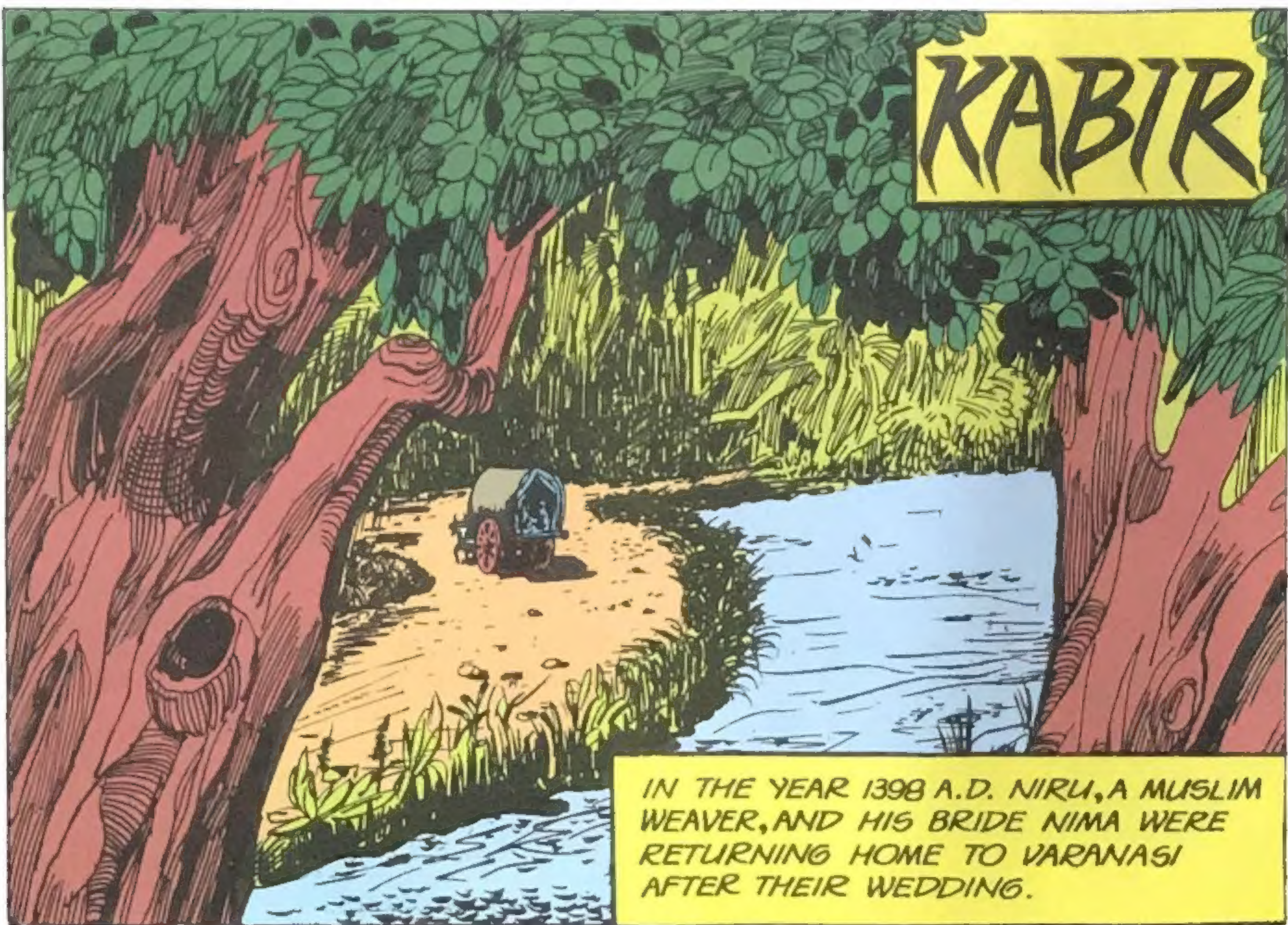


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KABIR

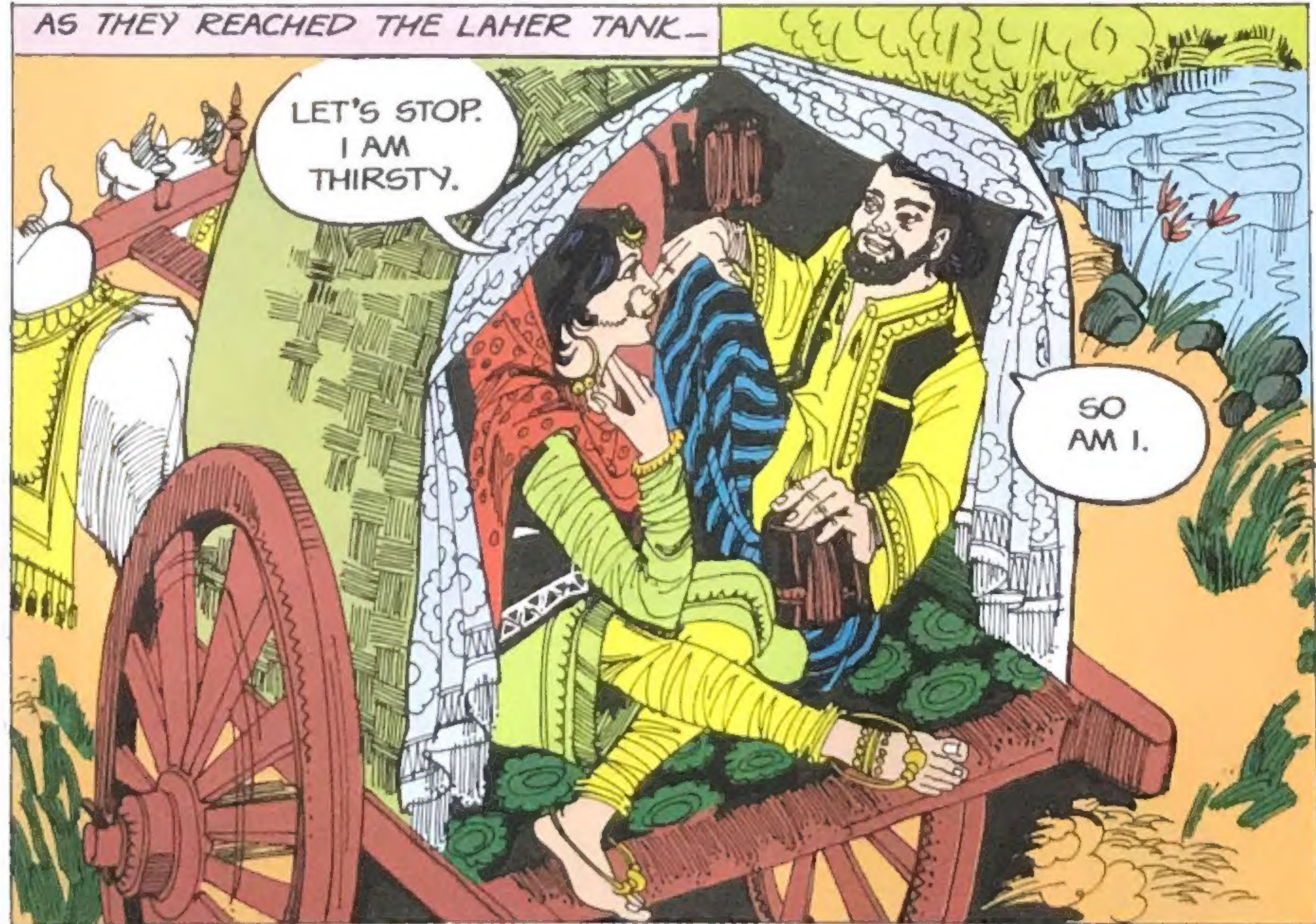


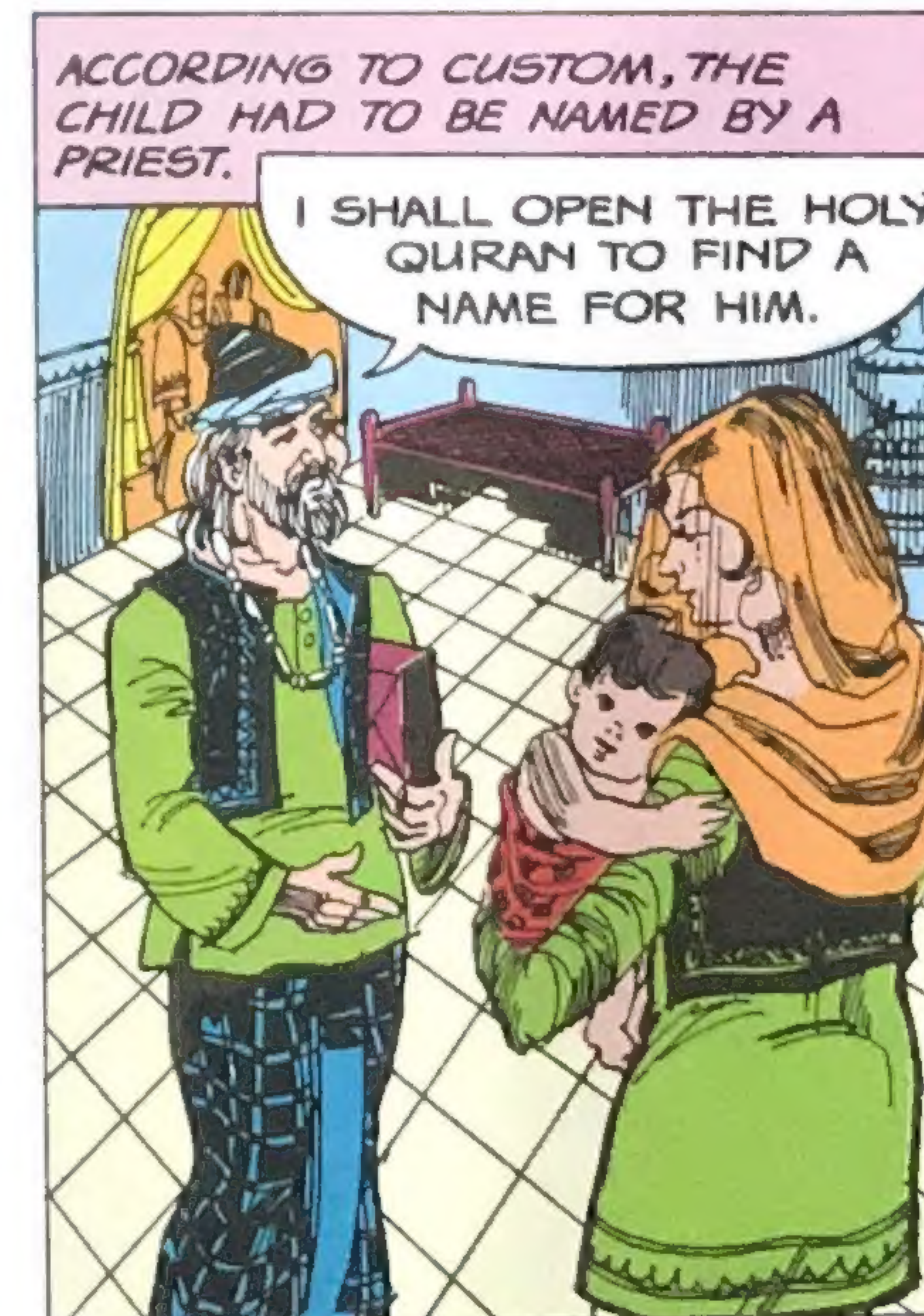
IN THE YEAR 1398 A.D. NIRU, A MUSLIM WEAVER, AND HIS BRIDE NIMA WERE RETURNING HOME TO VARANASI AFTER THEIR WEDDING.

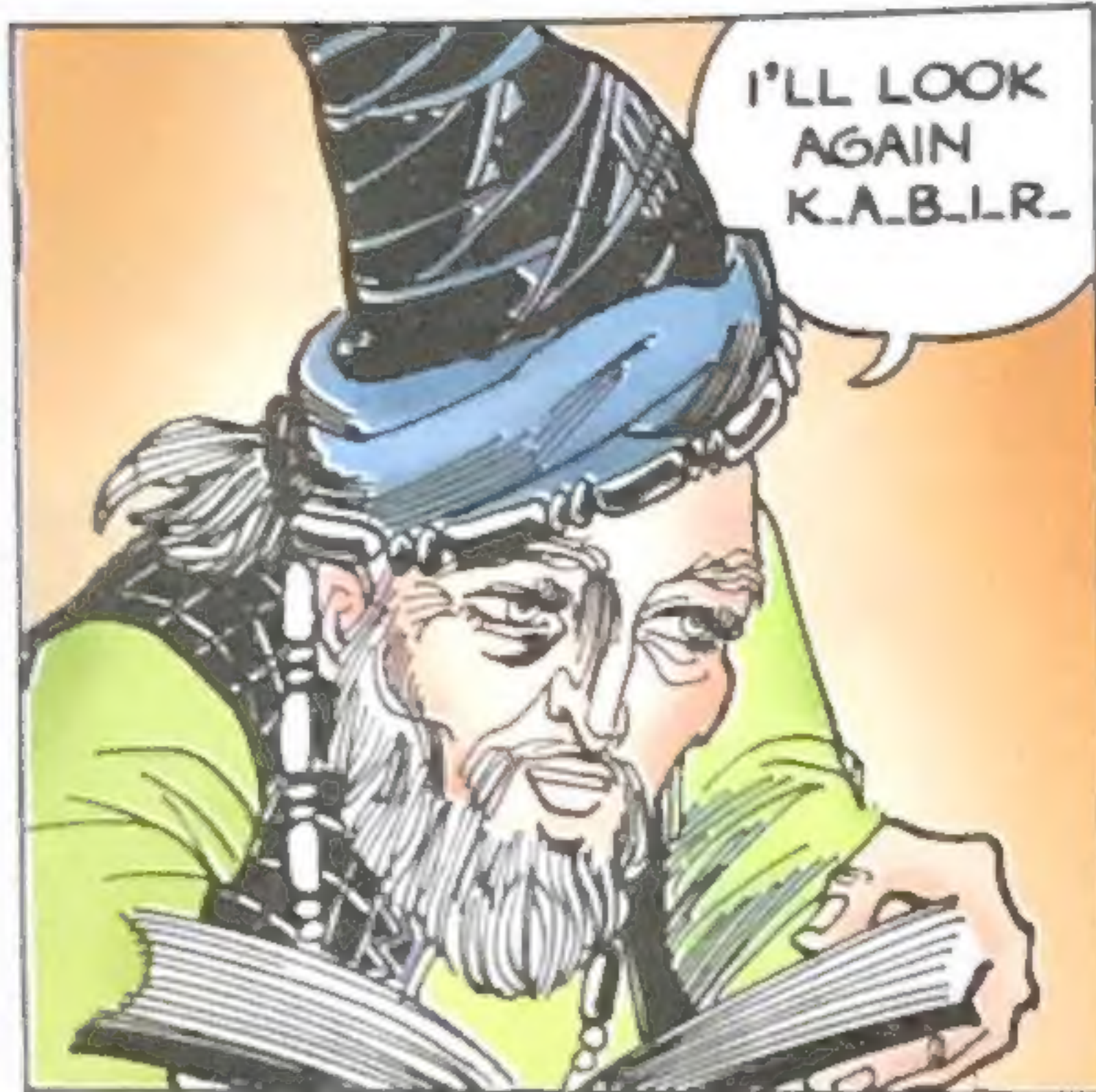
AS THEY REACHED THE LAHER TANK —

LET'S STOP.
I AM
THIRSTY.

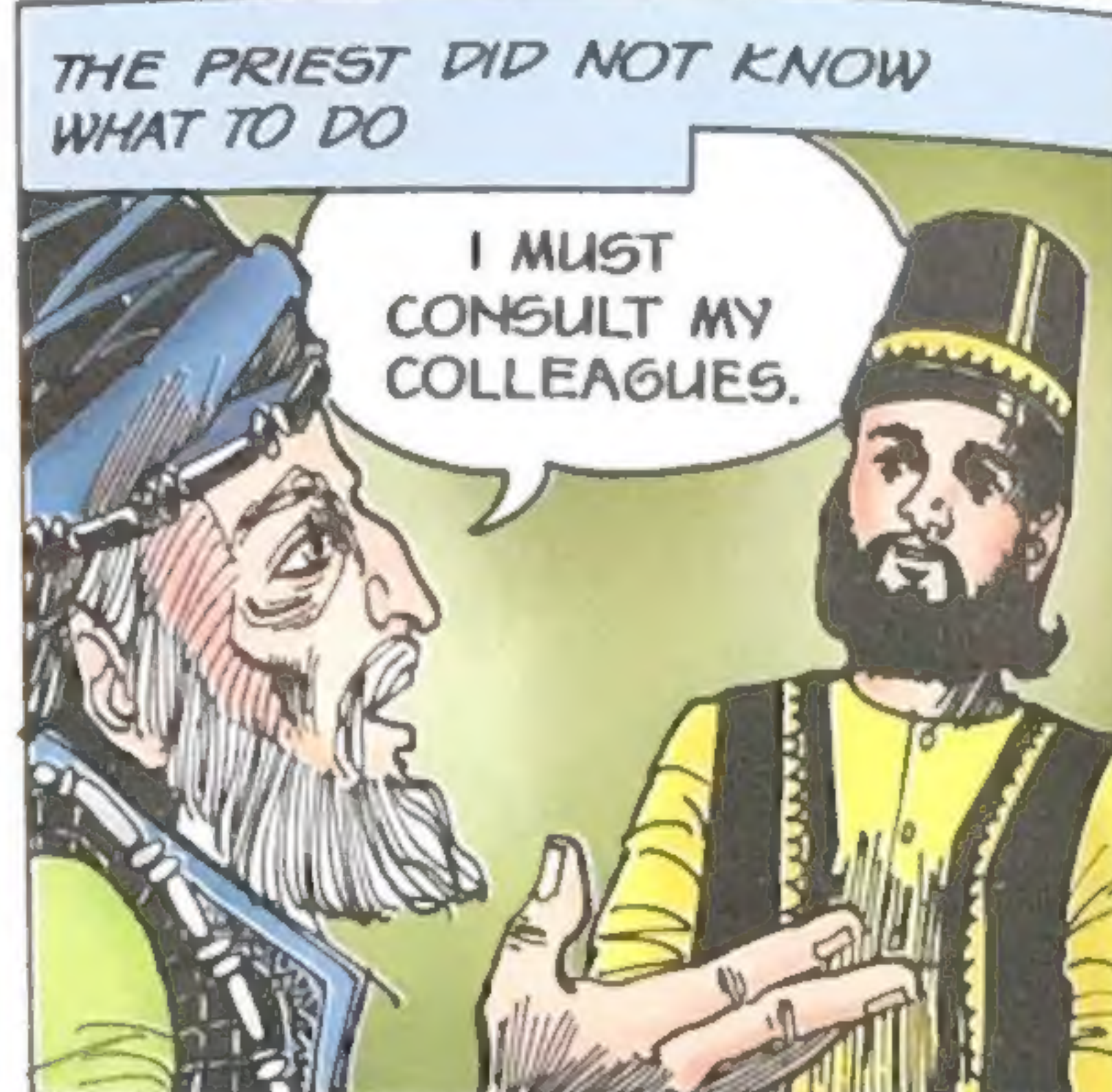
SO
AM I.







I'LL LOOK AGAIN K.A.B.I.R.



THE PRIEST DID NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO

I MUST CONSULT MY COLLEAGUES.

FOUR MORE PRIESTS WERE CALLED IN.



TO THEIR SURPRISE SEVERAL NAMES OF GOD, INCLUDING "KABIR," STARED THEM IN THEIR FACES.



OUTRAGED, THEY CALLED IN NIRU.

GOD'S NAME IS NOT FOR HIM.

THE CHILD IS EVIL. KILL HIM!

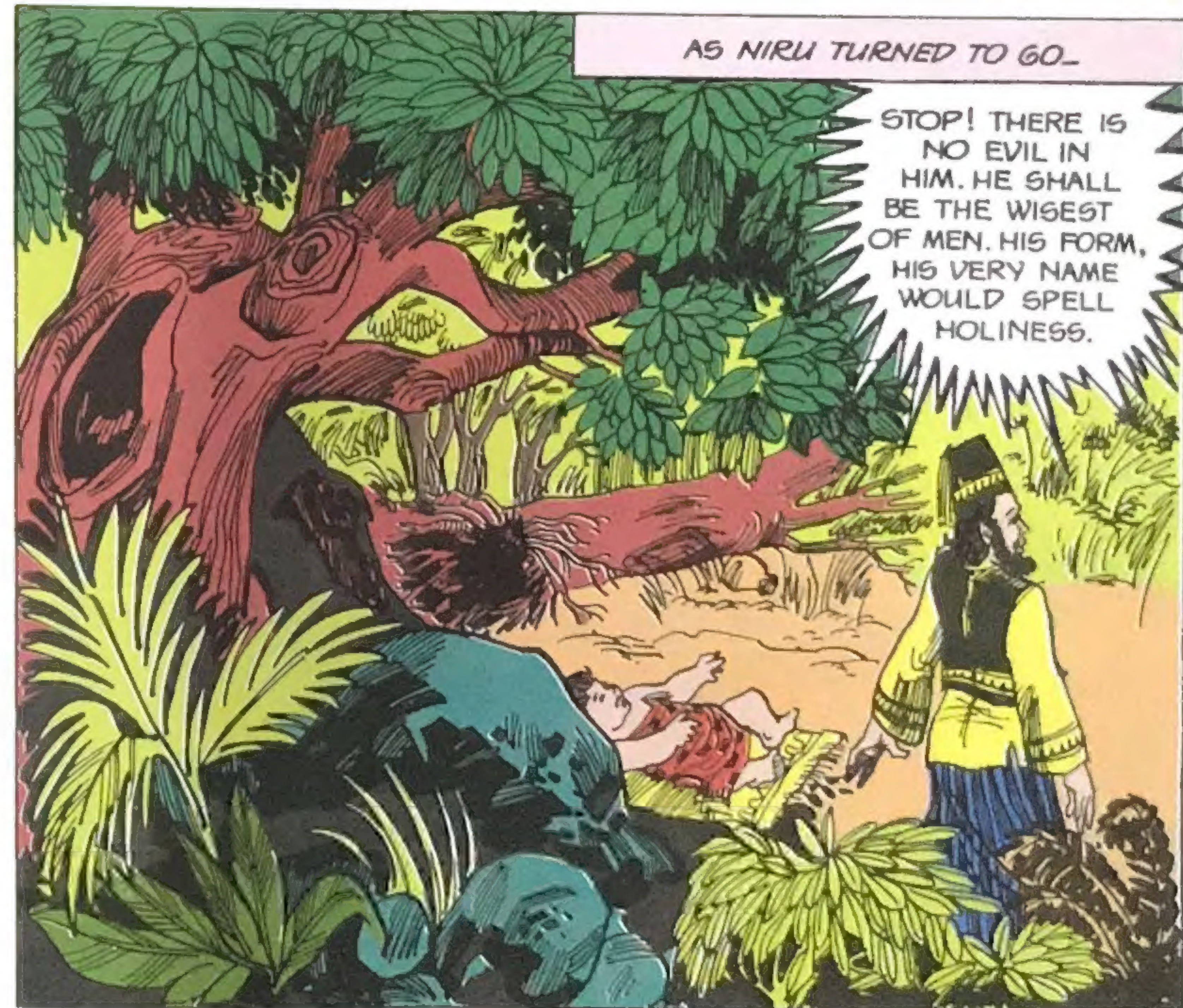


DON'T NIRU, PLEASE...

DID YOU HEAR WHAT THE PRIESTS HAD TO SAY?

NIRU TOOK THE CHILD INTO THE FOREST.

I'LL LEAVE HIM HERE. LET THE ANIMALS DO THE REST.



AS NIRU TURNED TO GO...

STOP! THERE IS NO EVIL IN HIM. HE SHALL BE THE WISEST OF MEN. HIS FORM, HIS VERY NAME WOULD SPELL HOLINESS.



NIRU MADE UP HIS MIND TO KEEP THE BABY.



THOUGH KABIR GREW UP AS A MUSLIM...



WHY? WHY SHOULDN'T I? IT'S THE NAME OF GOD.



*THE LOWLY OUTCASTE.

I KNOW NO RELIGION.



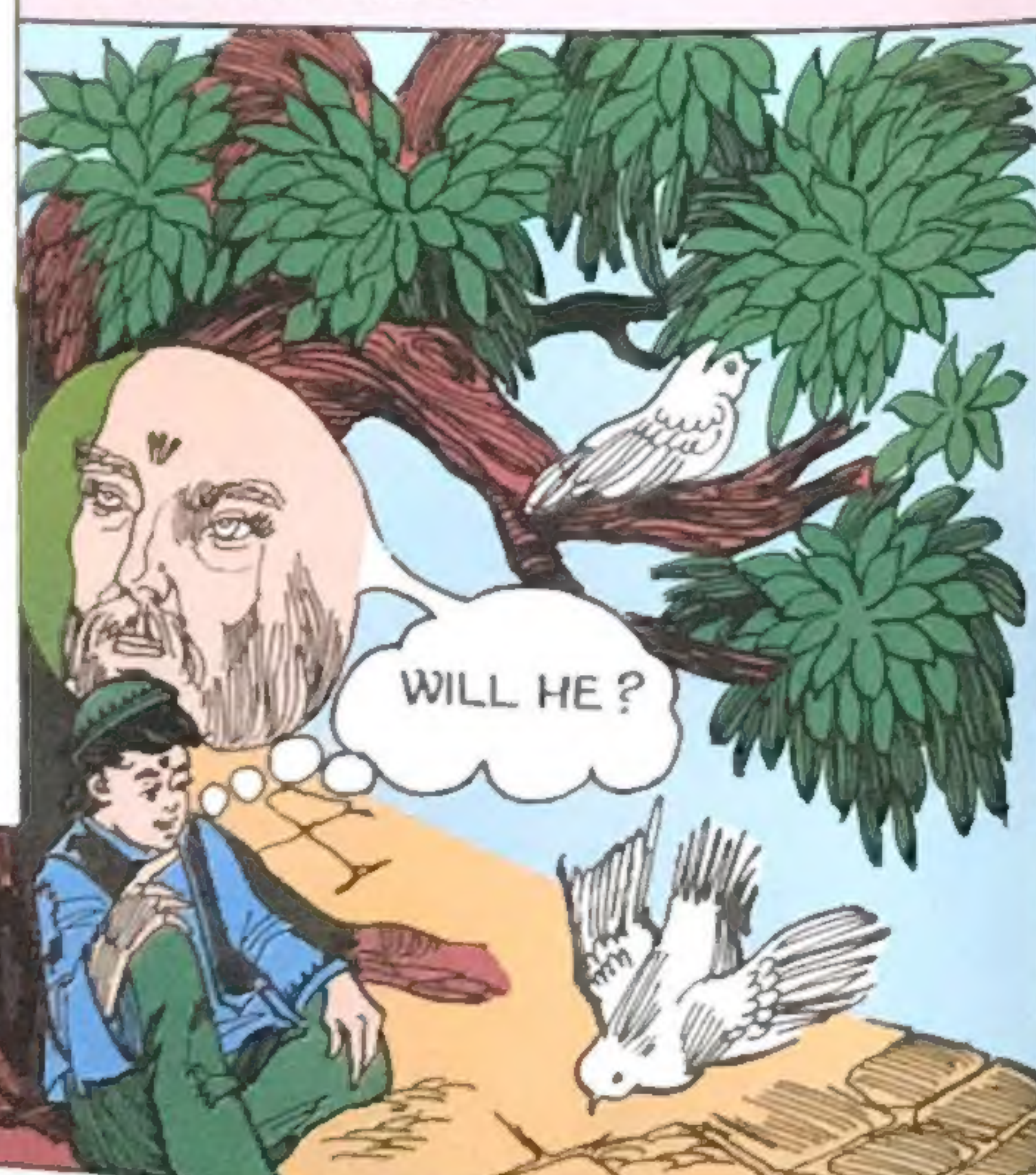
SUCH TREATMENT MADE NO DIFFERENCE TO KABIR'S VIEWS.



KABIR WANTED A SPIRITUAL GUIDE.



THE TROUBLED KABIR THOUGHT OF SWAMI RAMANAND, A GREAT VAISHNAVA SAINT.



AT RAMANAND'S PLACE...

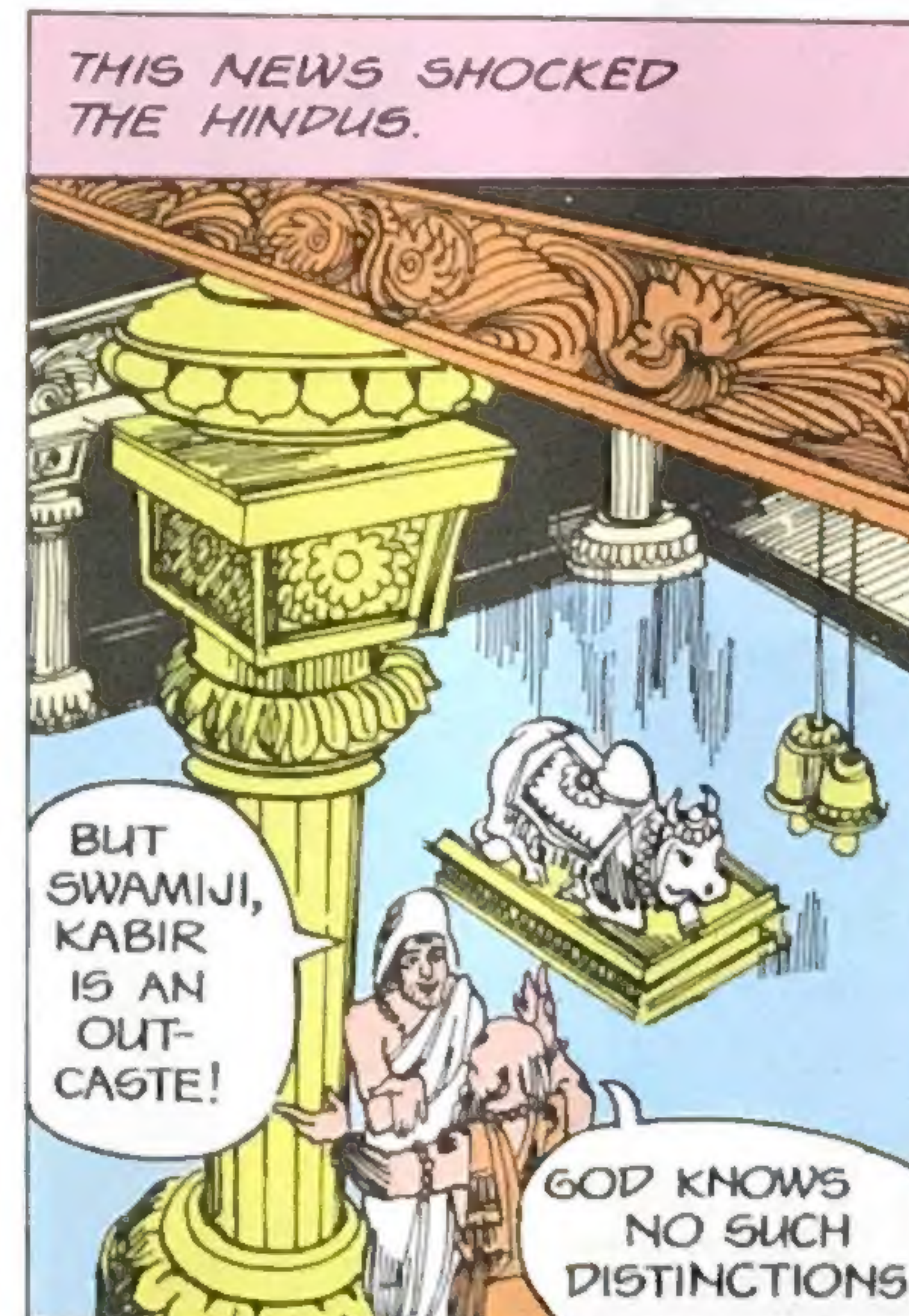
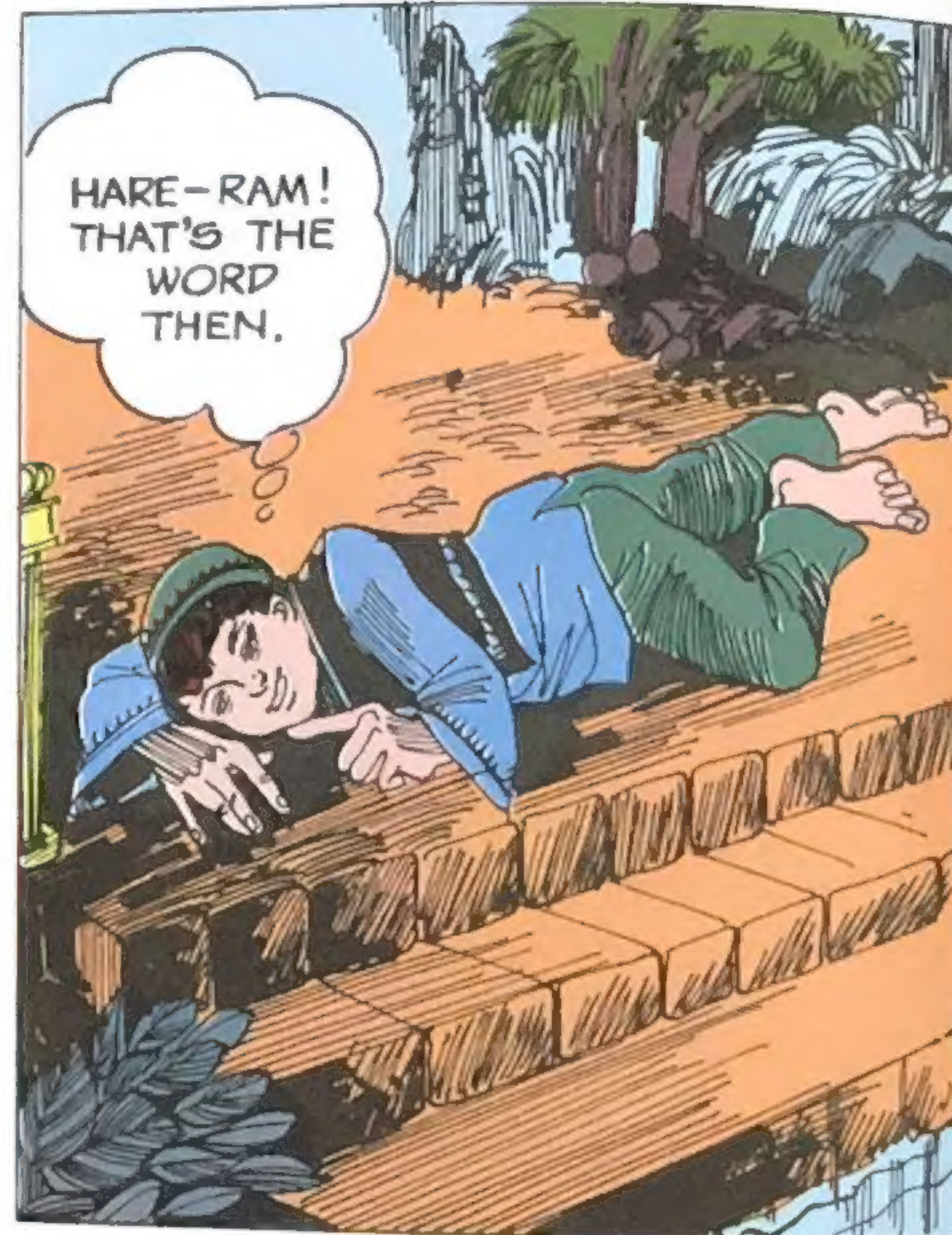


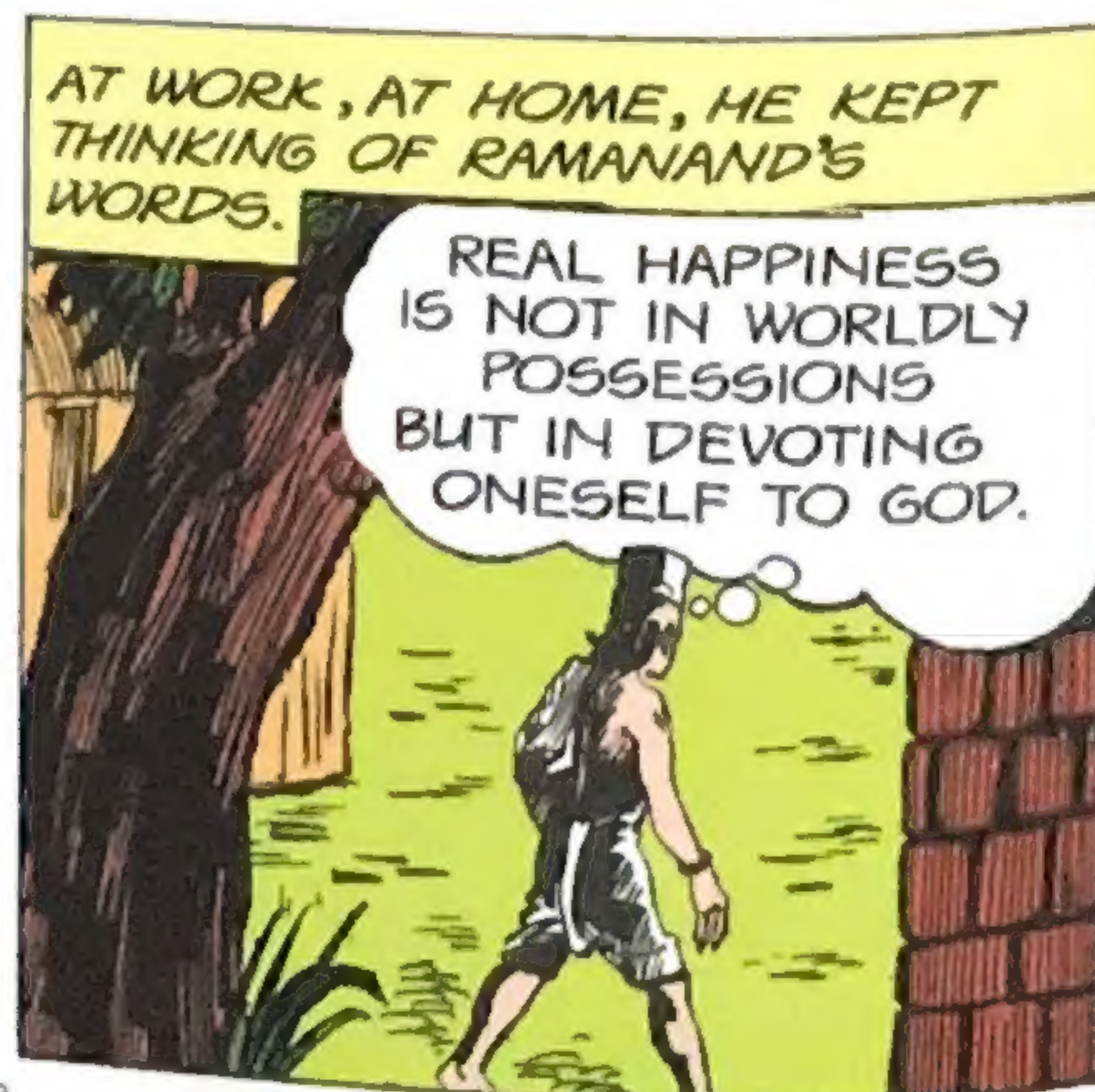
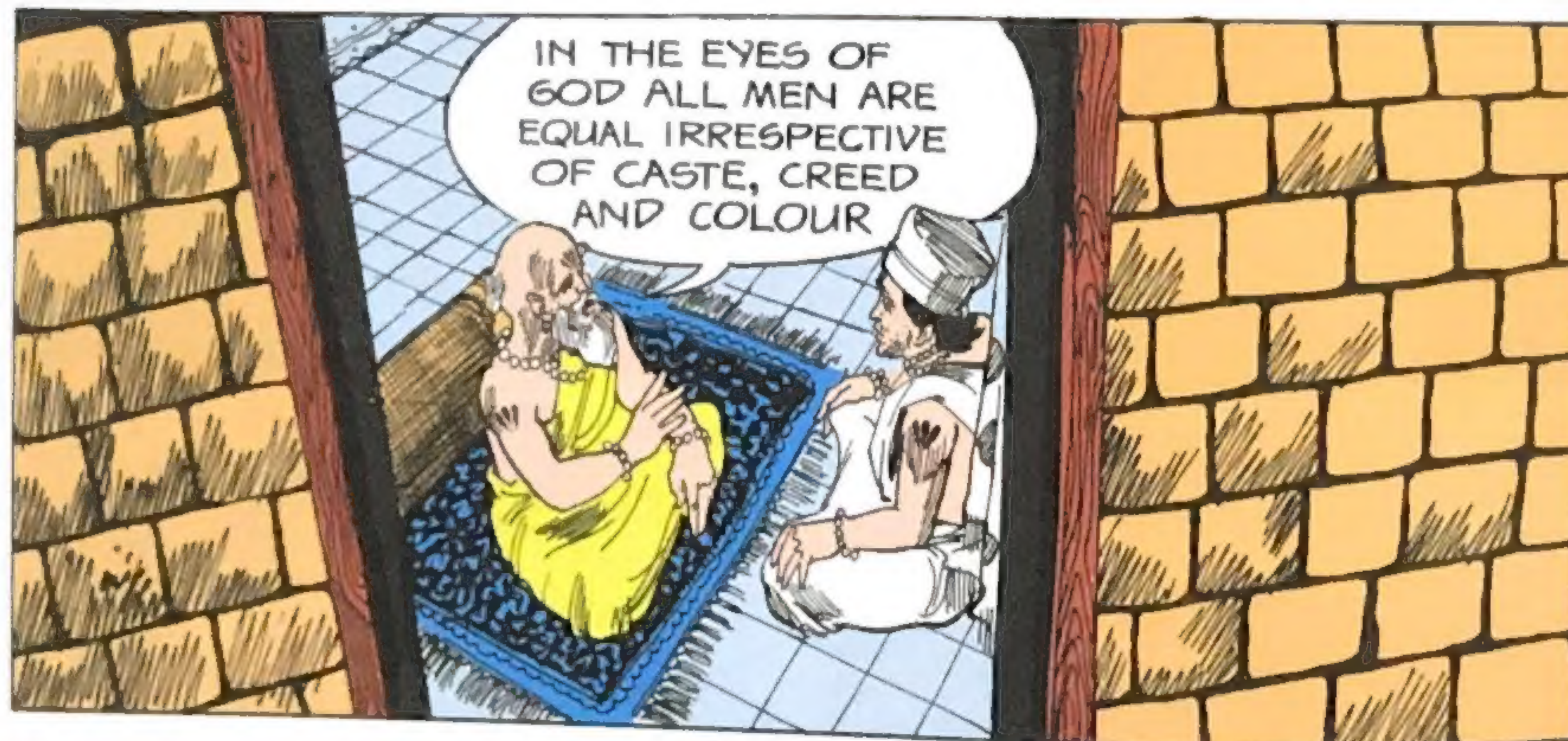
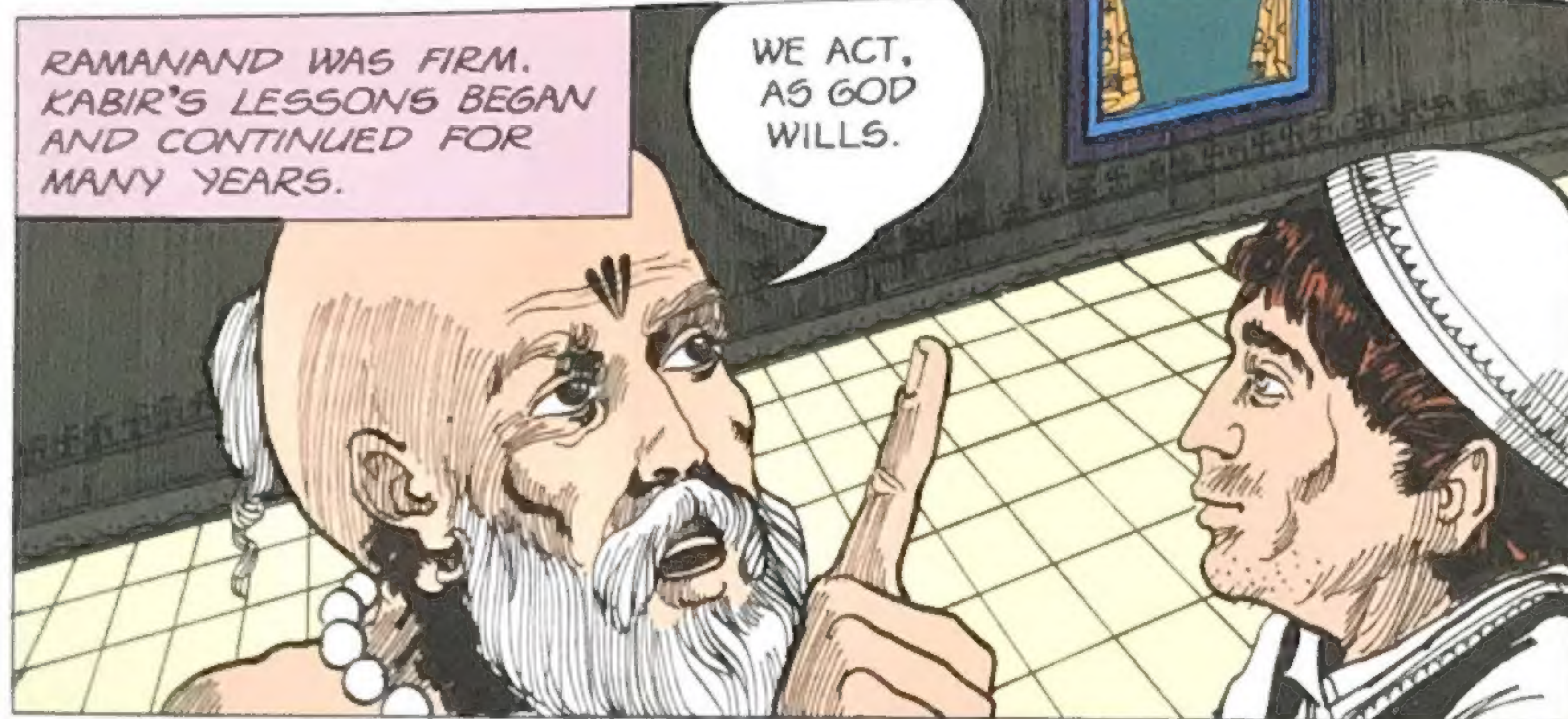
KABIR DID NOT GIVE UP.



EARLY ONE MORNING...

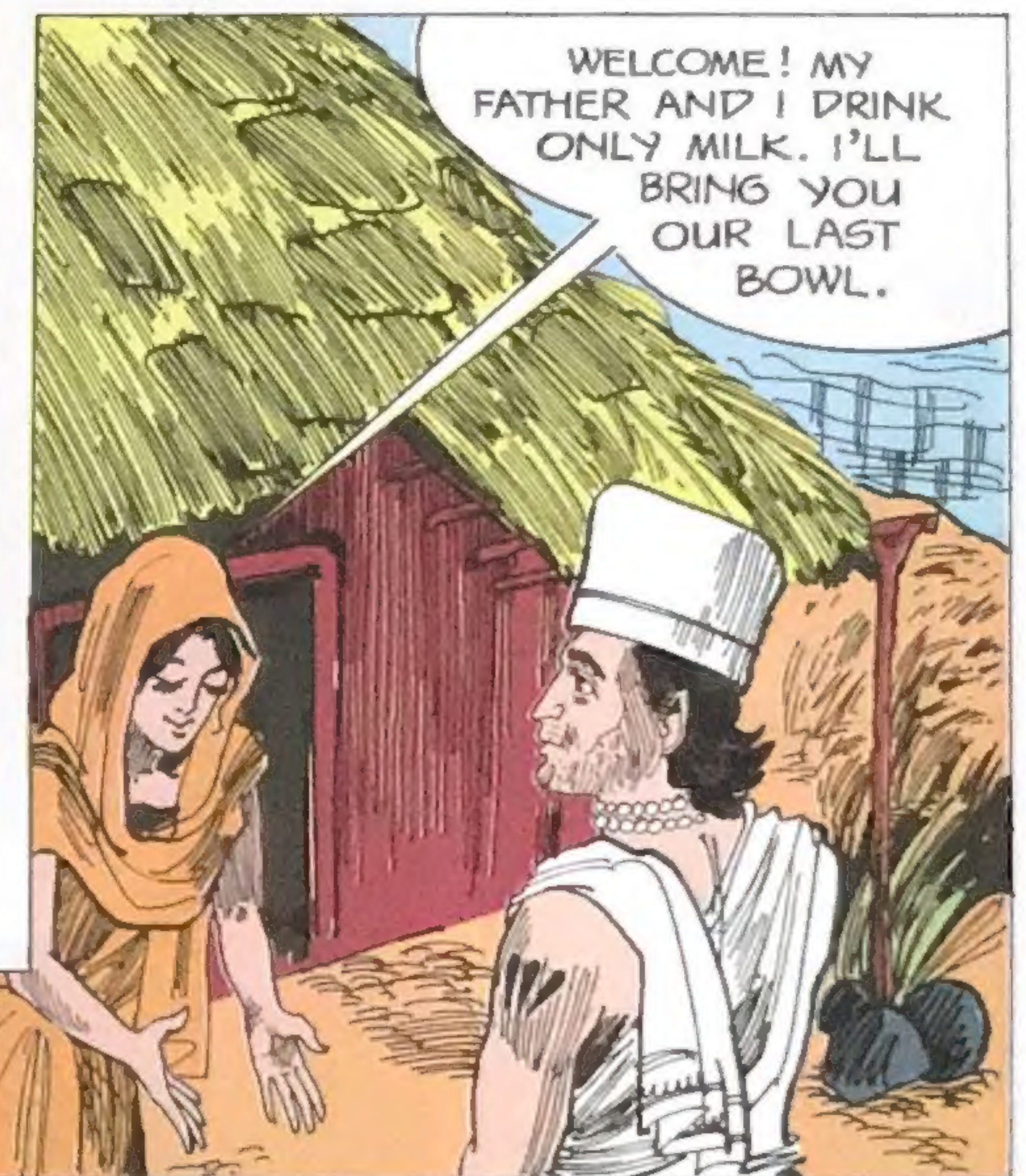
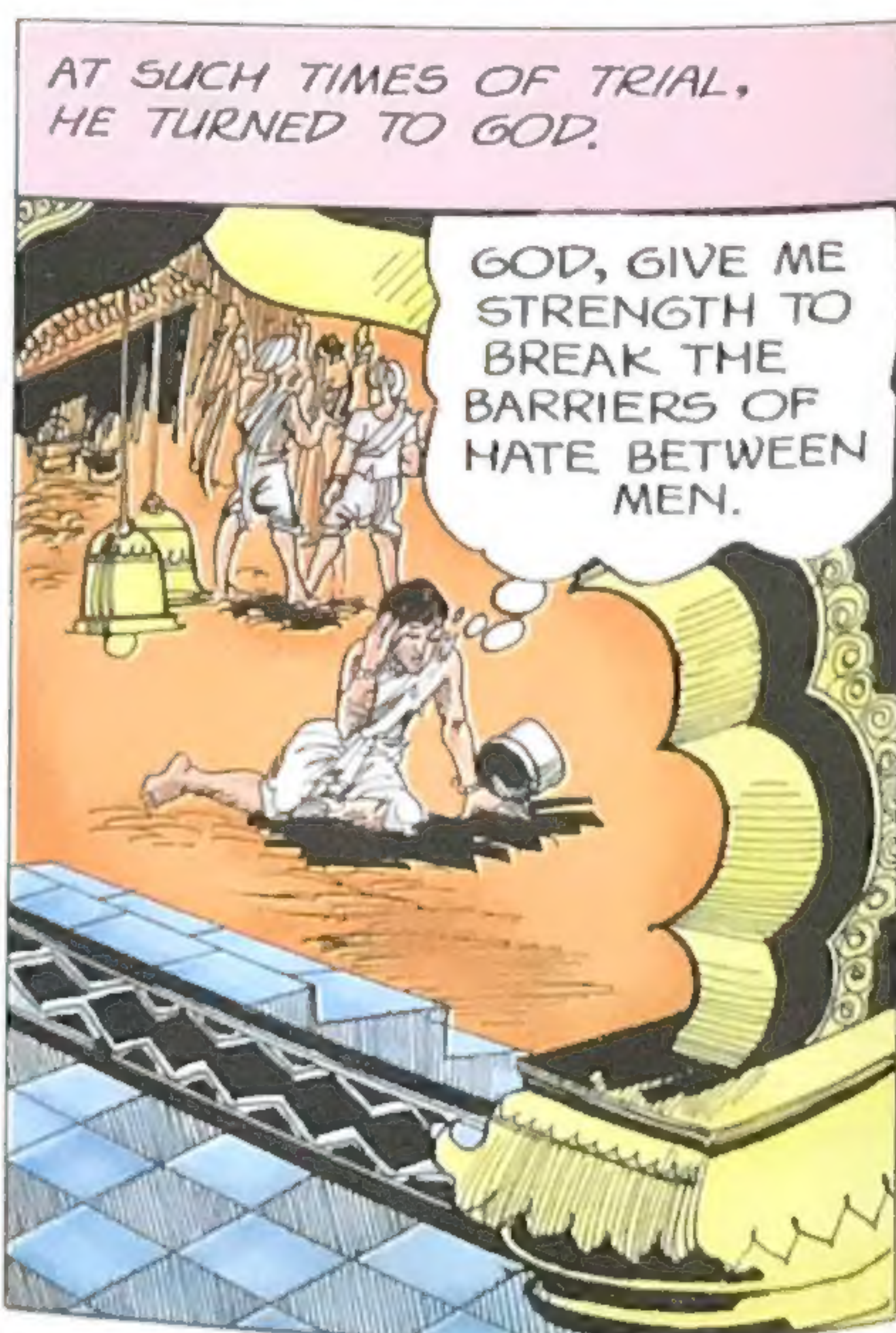
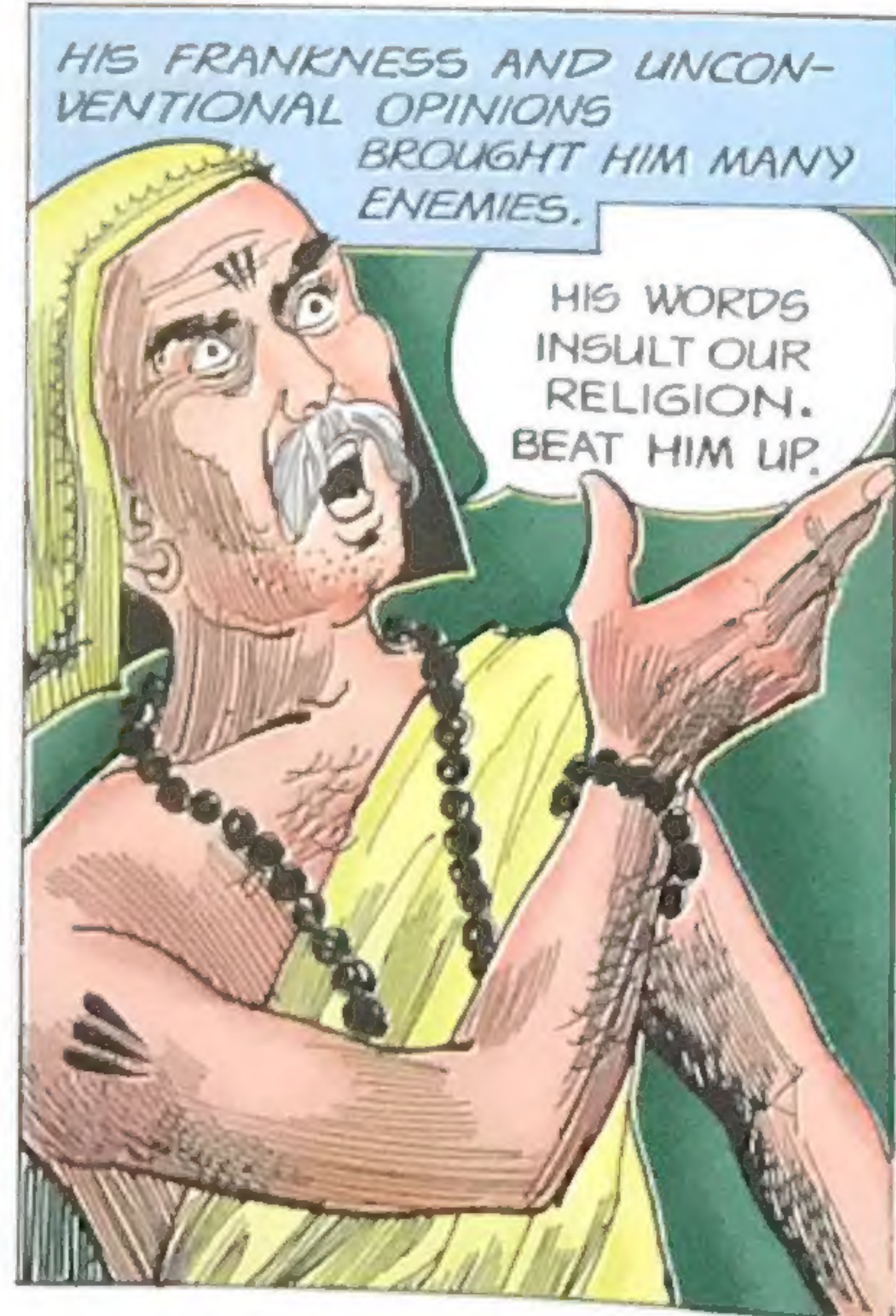
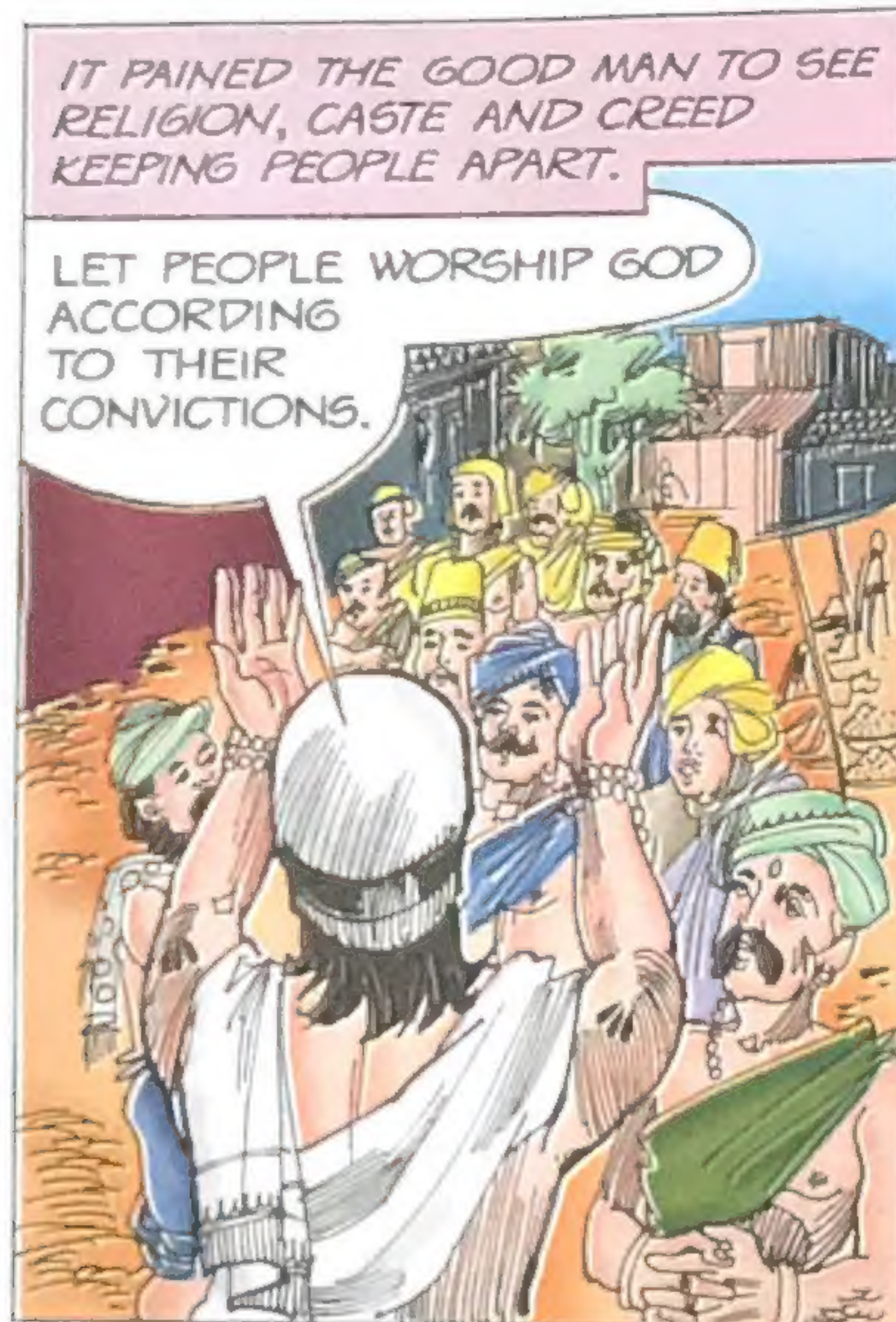


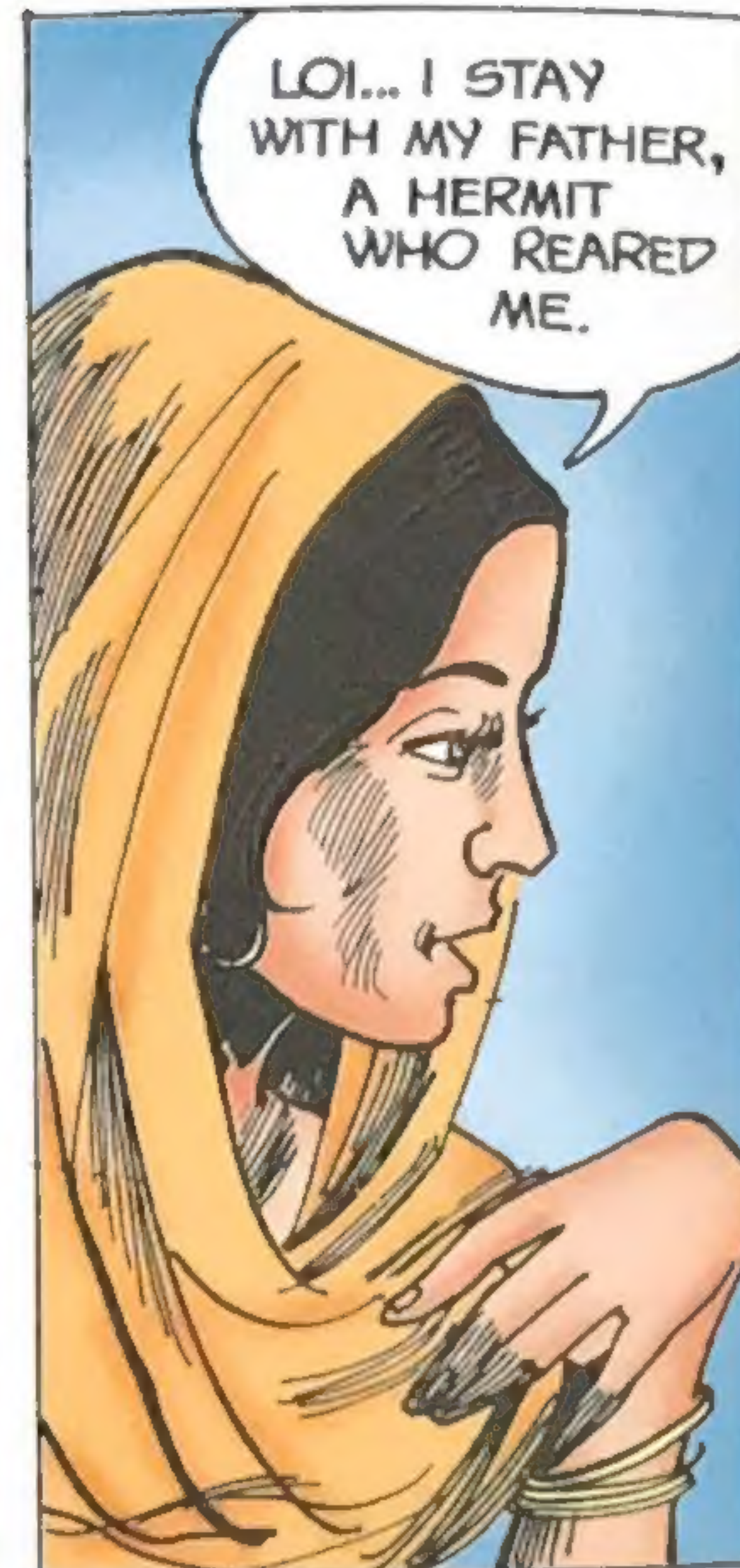




KABIR ALWAYS GAVE AWAY WHATEVER MONEY HE COULD.







SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE GAVE KABIR PEACE. HE WENT AMONG THE MUSLIM PREACHERS...

ALLAH IS THE ONLY ONE.



...AS AMONG THE HINDU SAGES.

DEVOTION TO GOD BRINGS HAPPINESS.



KABIR WAS ACCUSED OF BEING A HERETIC.

IN THE NAME OF THE KING, WE ARREST YOU.



IN THE COURT OF THE GREAT EMPEROR, SIKANDAR LODI...

BOW TO THE KING.

I BOW ONLY TO GOD, I FEAR NEITHER KING NOR CROWN.

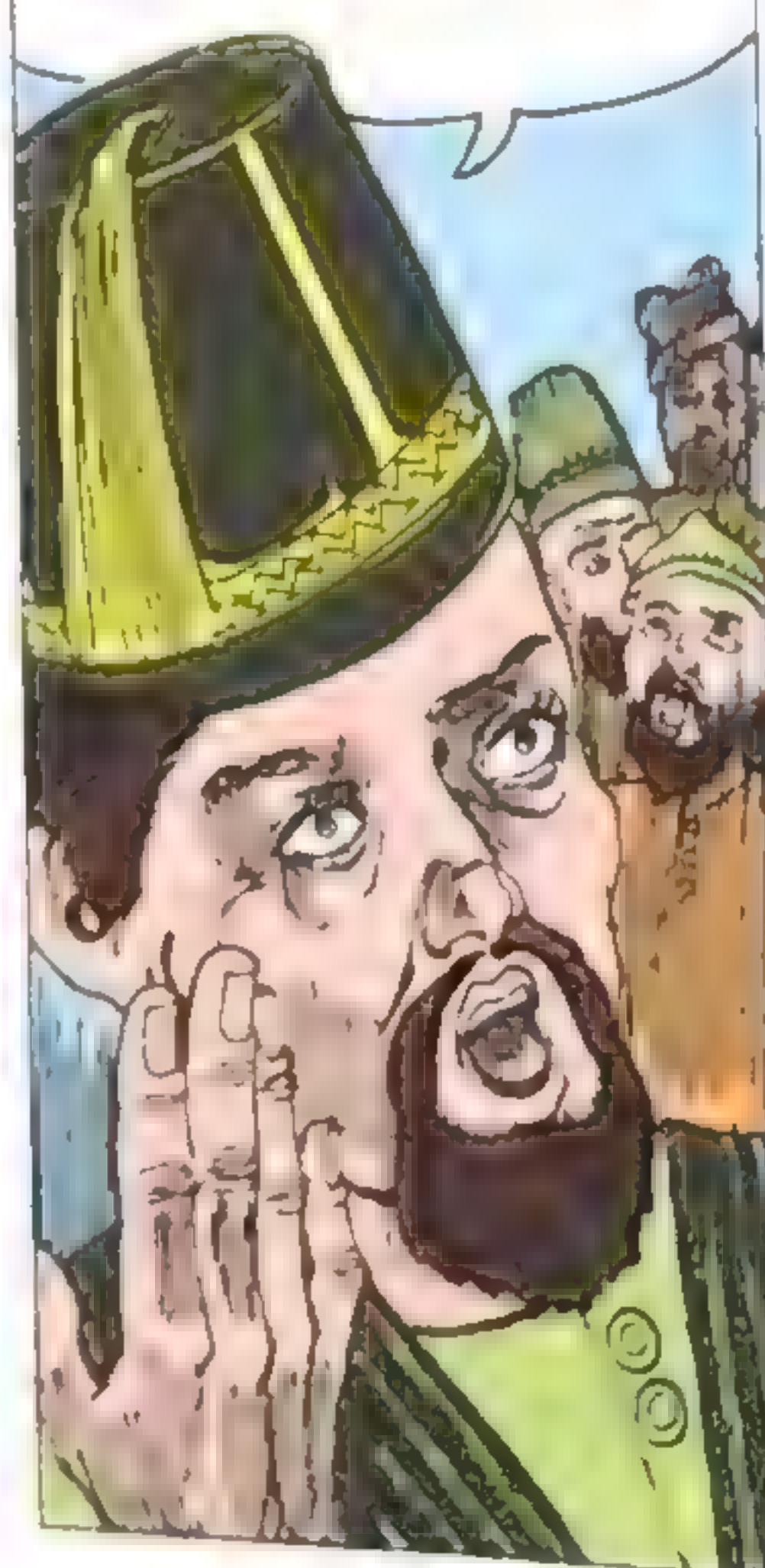


THIS GAVE HIM A BAD NAME.

HE POLLUTES OUR RELIGION, BY MIXING WITH THE OTHERS.



AN INFIDEL HAS NO PLACE AMONG US.



HE IS IMMORAL.

WICKED?

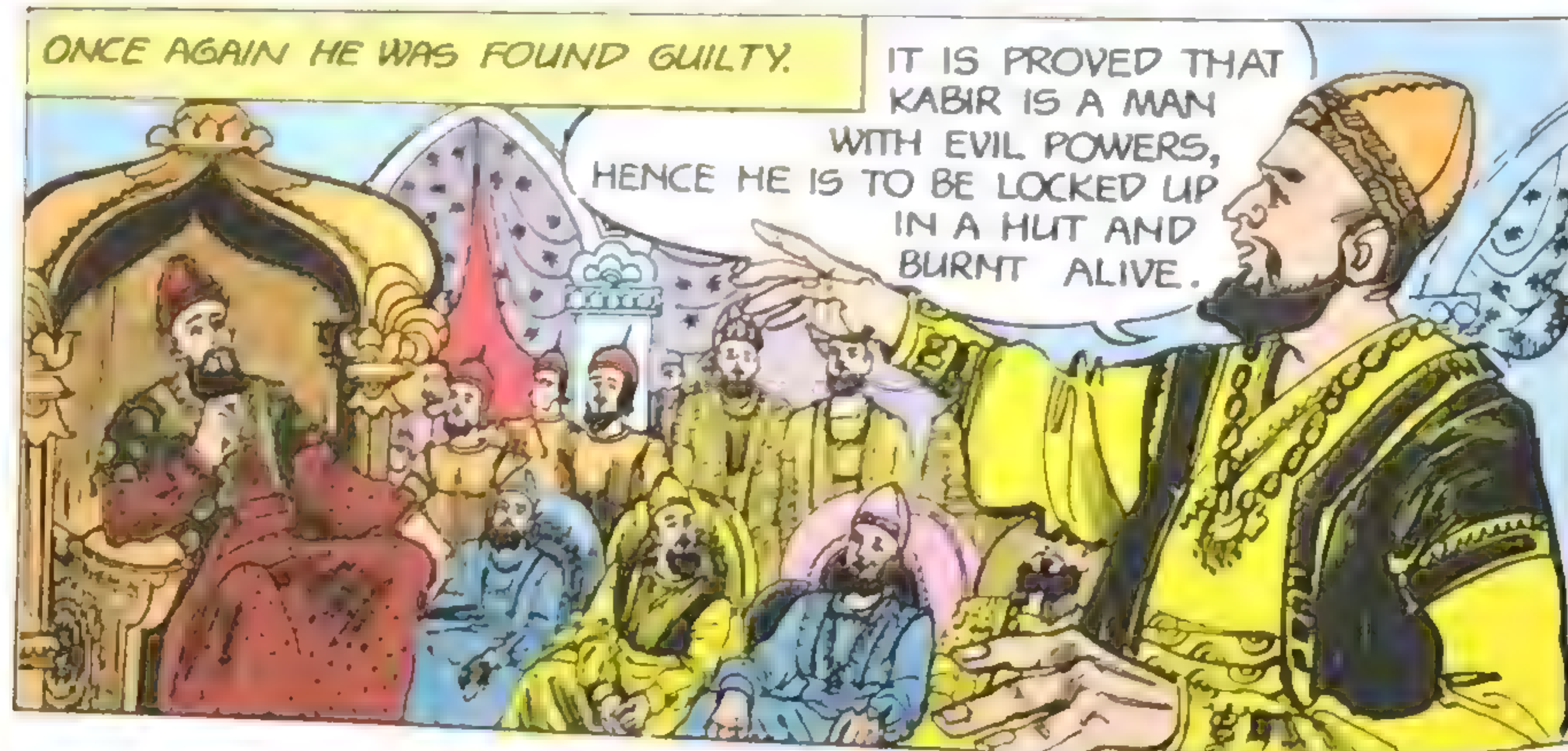
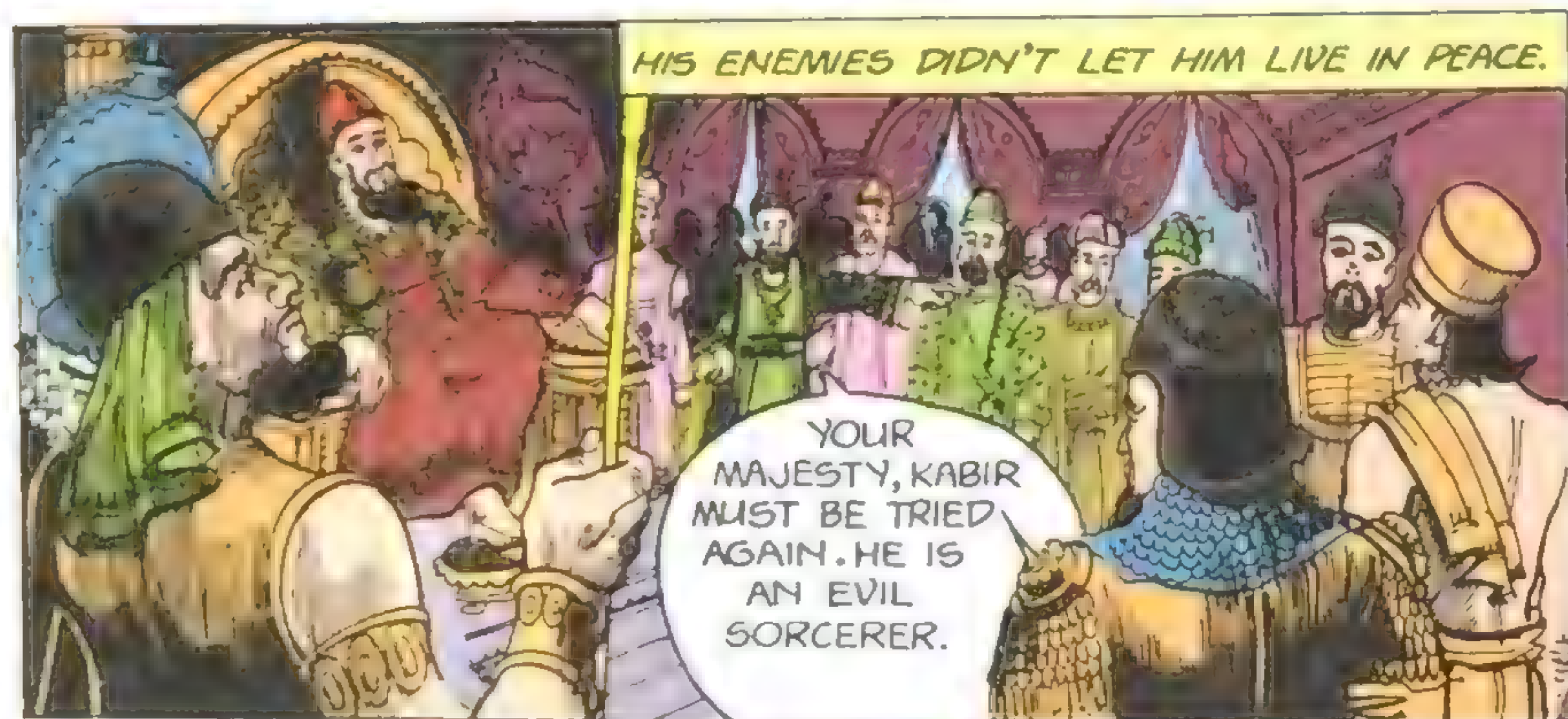
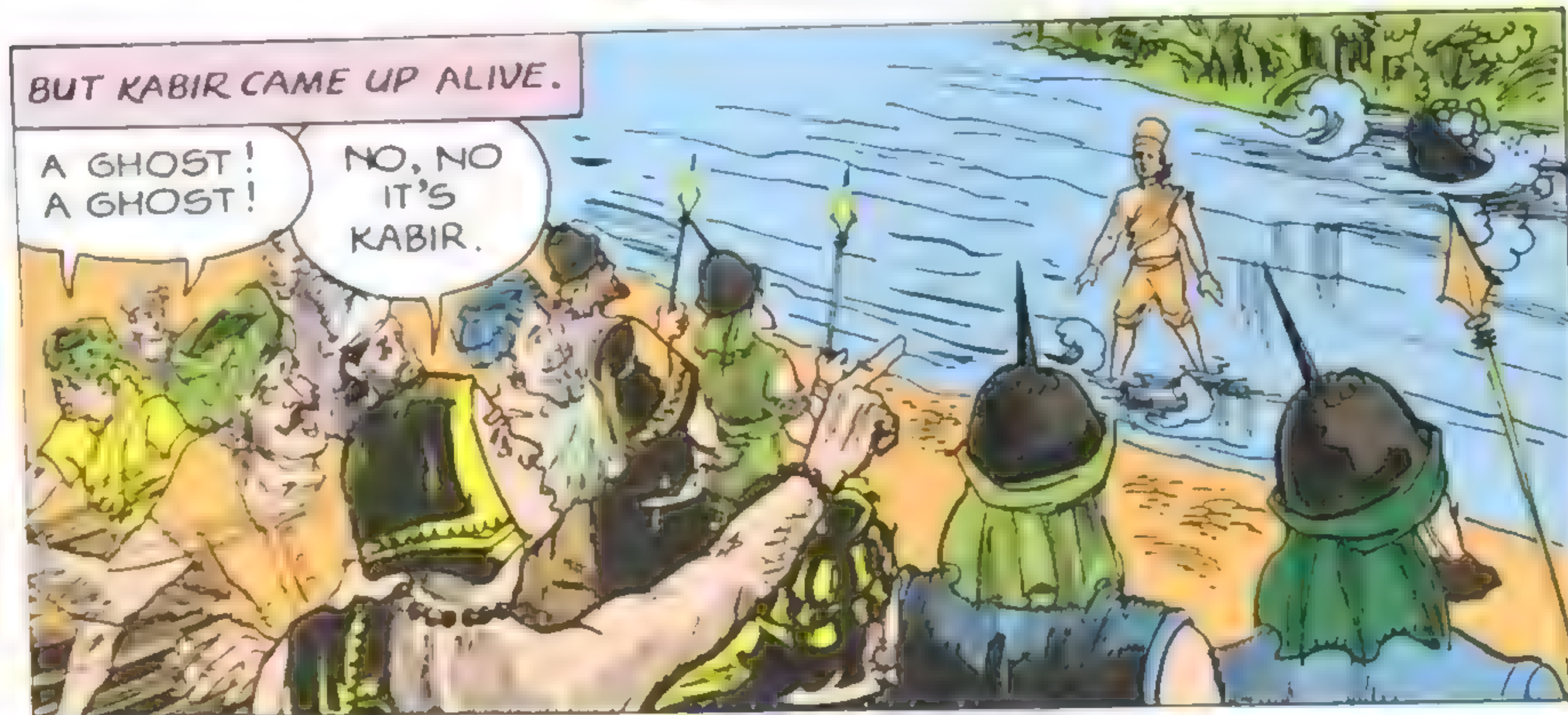
SINFUL.



THE KING WAS FURIOUS.

KABIR IS AN ENEMY OF OUR RELIGION, HE THINKS HIMSELF TO BE GOD. CHAIN HIM AND DROWN HIM.



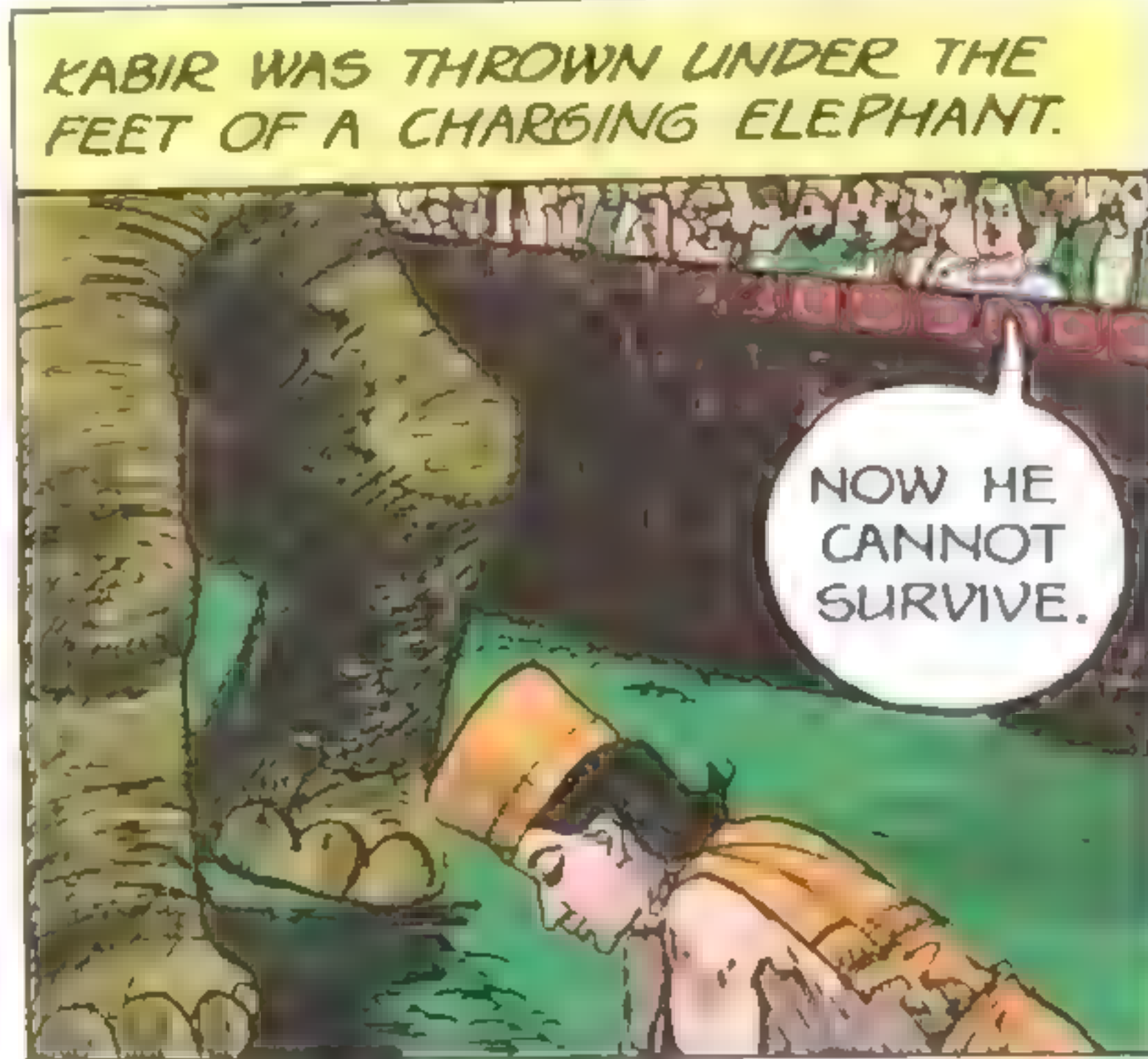


AS THE FLAMES LEAPT UP, A FORM OF GREAT MAJESTY
EMERGED FROM THE HUT-IT WAS KABIR.



FOR THE THIRD TIME AN APPEAL
WAS MADE TO THE EMPEROR.





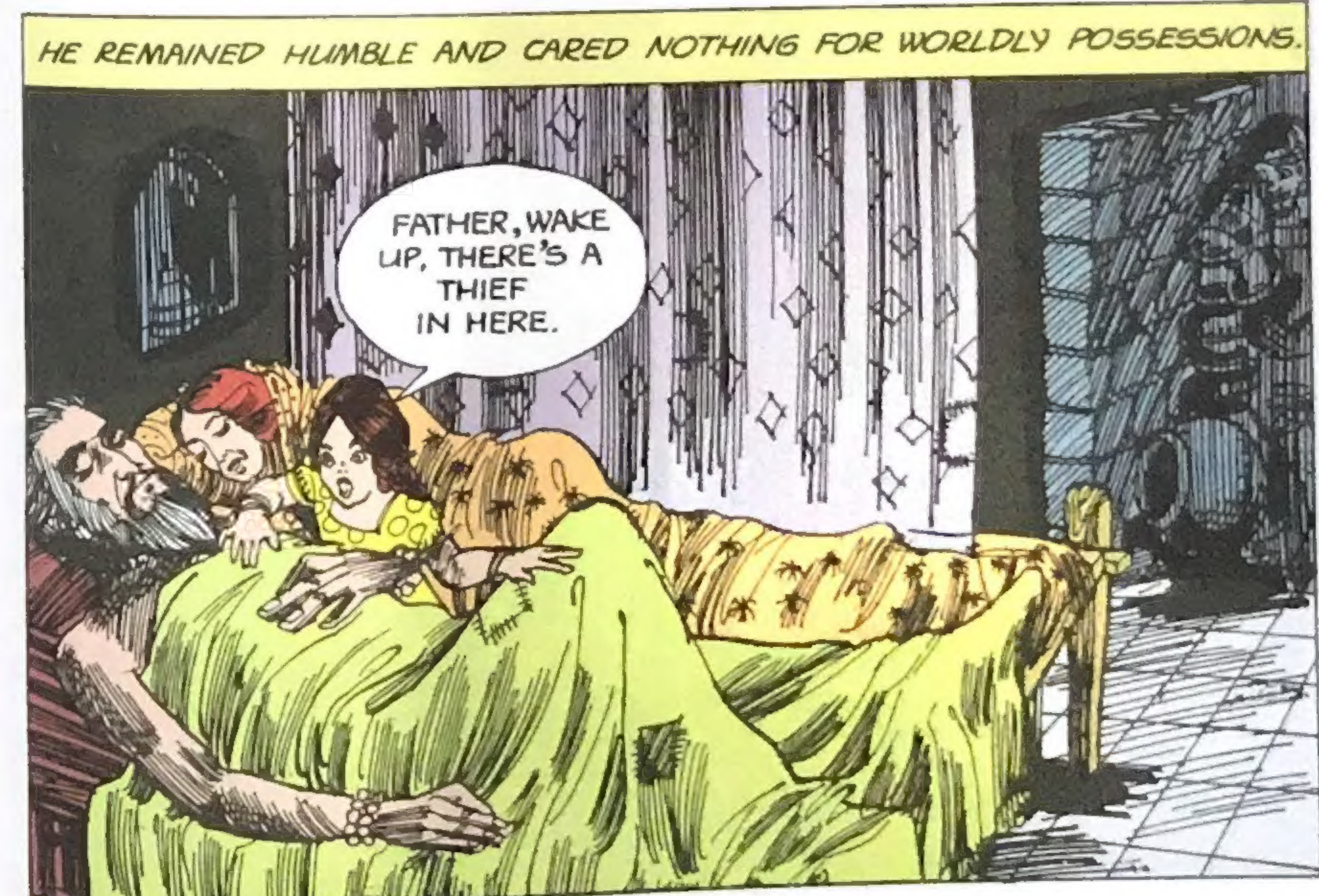
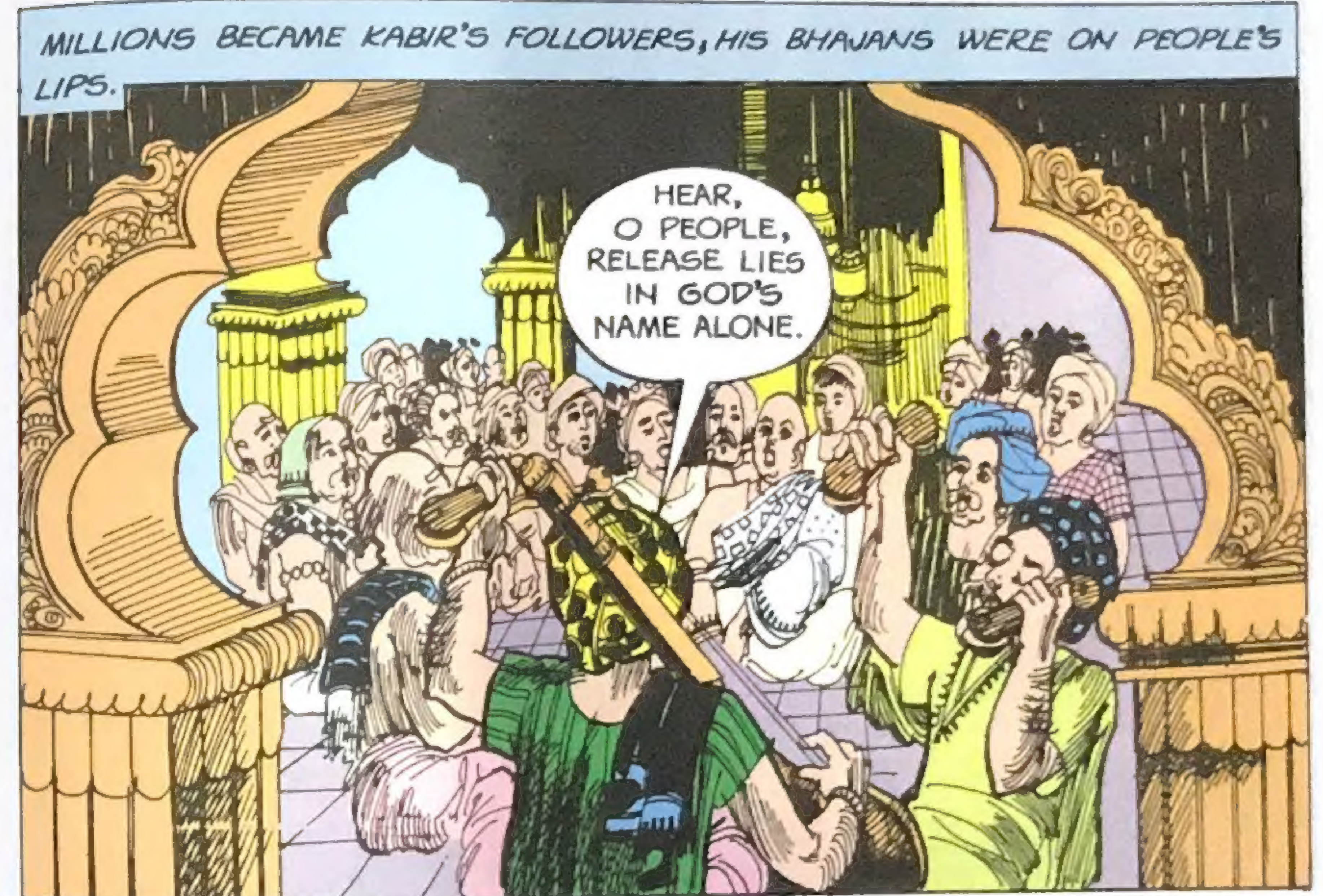
BUT THE MIRACLES DID NOT END. THE ELEPHANT SAW A GROUP OF ANGRY LIONS INSTEAD OF A MAN.

SO MANY LIONS! I MUST RUN FOR MY LIFE.



BUT PEOPLE STILL SHUNNED KABIR AND TREATED HIM AS AN OUTCASTE. ONE DAY—







POOR MAN. WE HAVE NOTHING FOR HIM.



THE THIEF STUMBLED.

PWH!



QUICK, LIGHT THE LAMP, HE WILL HURT HIMSELF IN THE DARK.



HERE BROTHER, SEE IF YOU CAN FIND ANYTHING WORTHWHILE.



FORGIVE ME, SIR.

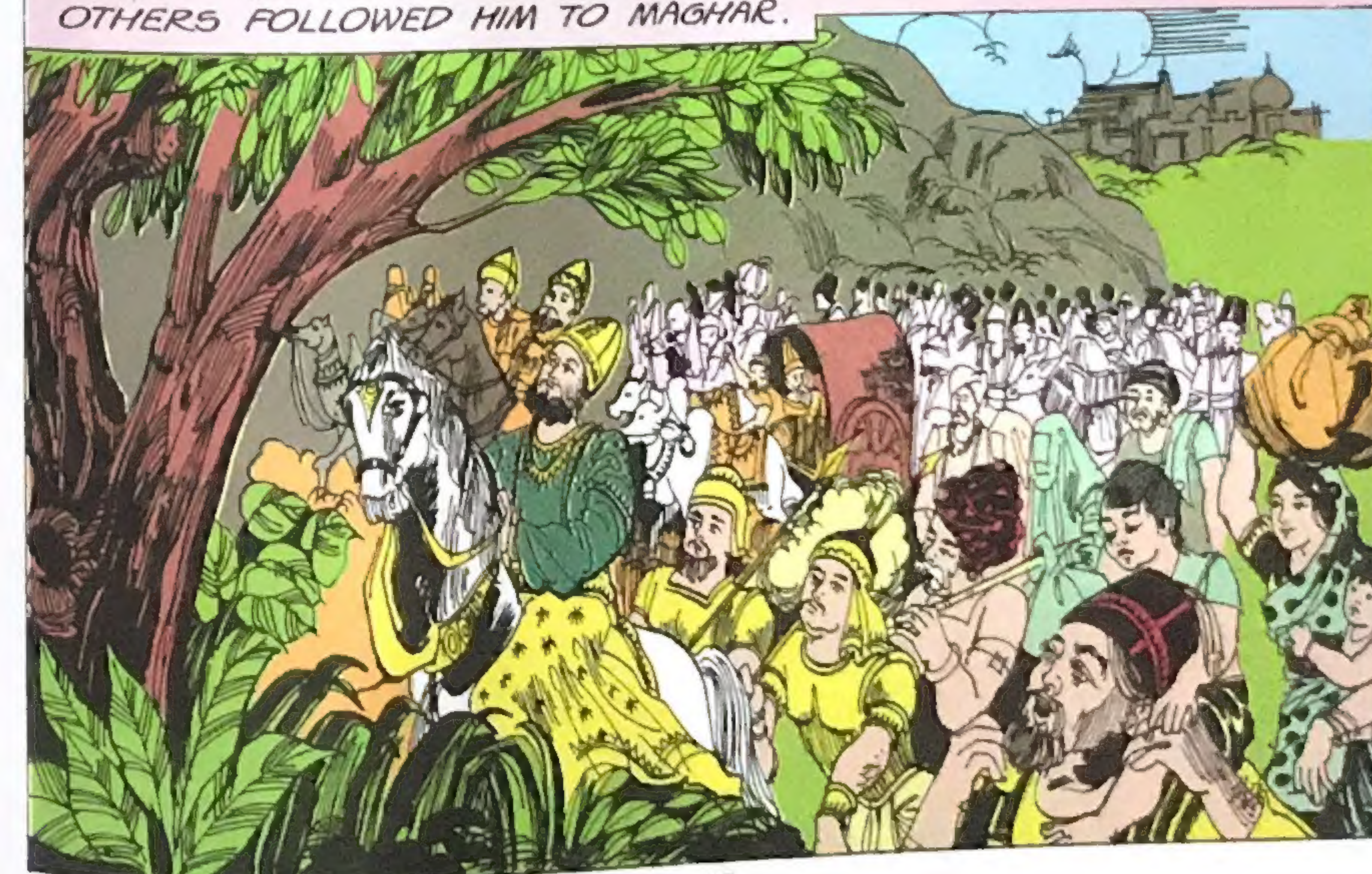


WHEN KABIR'S END WAS NEAR—

I WOULD LIKE TO DIE AT MAGHAR.

MAGHAR? SIR, THOSE WHO DIE THERE DON'T GO TO HEAVEN, IT IS BELIEVED.

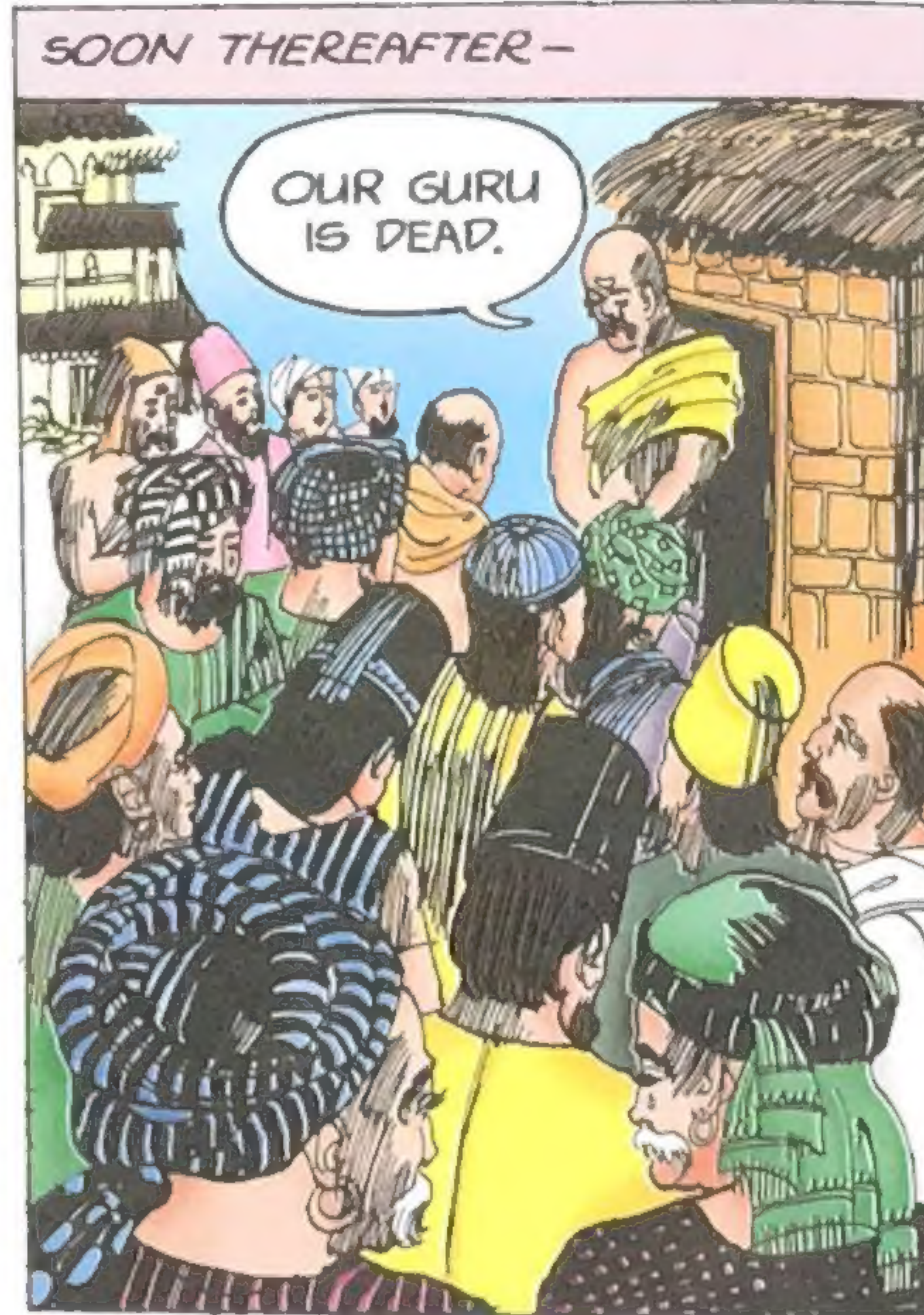
KABIR WAS DETERMINED TO FREE PEOPLE FROM SUPERSTITION. HE LEFT VARANASI. KINGS, DEVOTEES AND SEVERAL OTHERS FOLLOWED HIM TO MAGHAR.



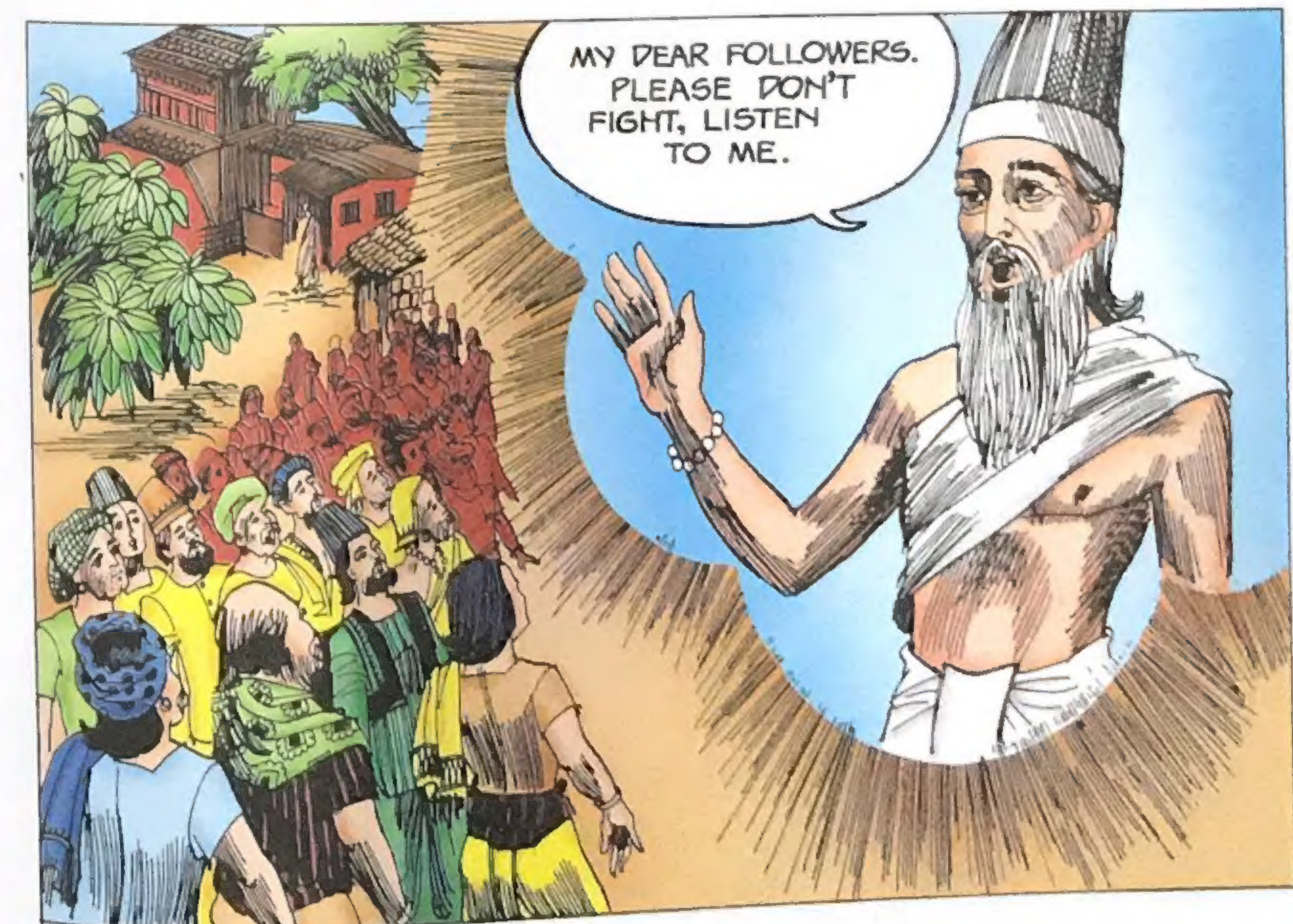
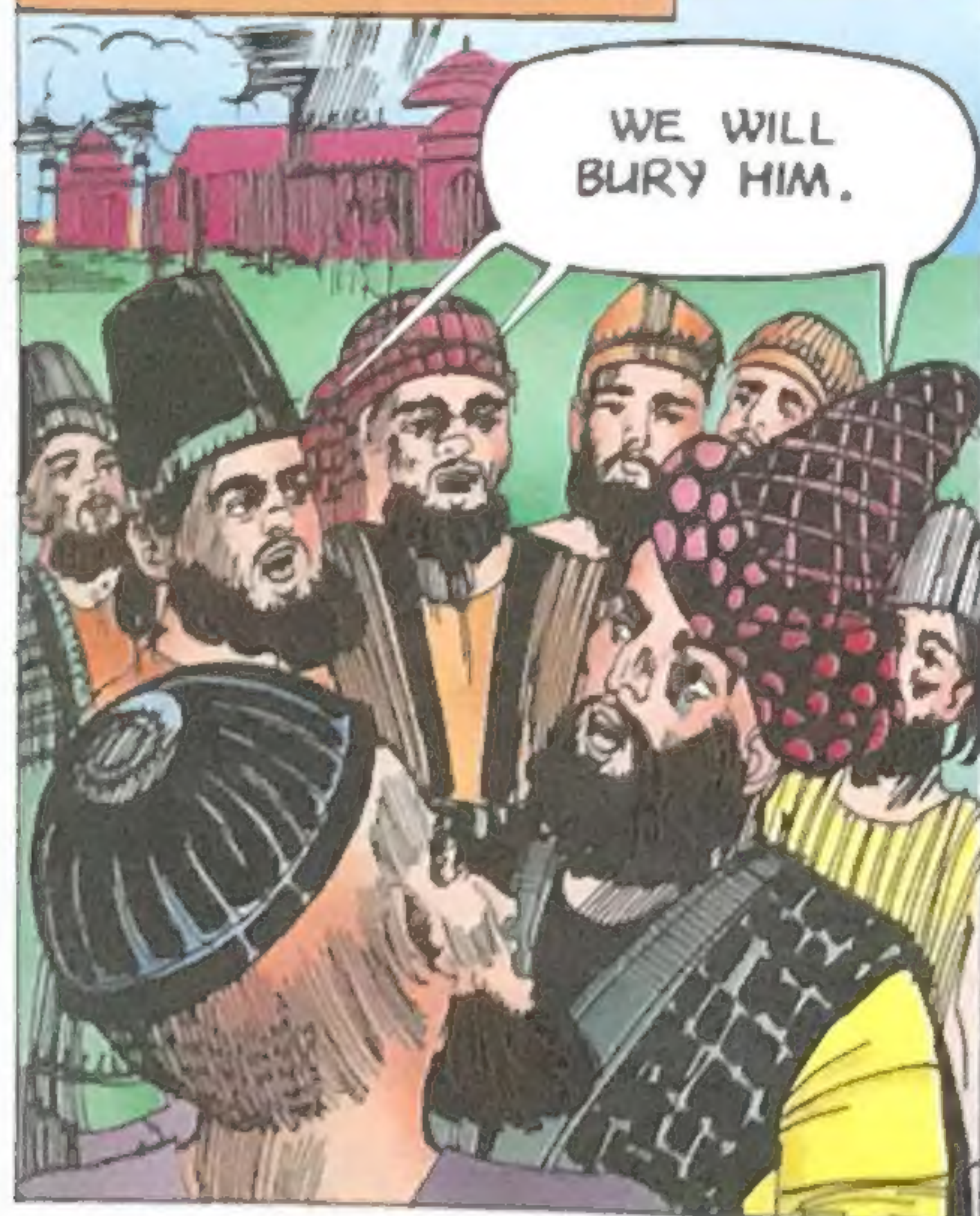
ONE DAY-

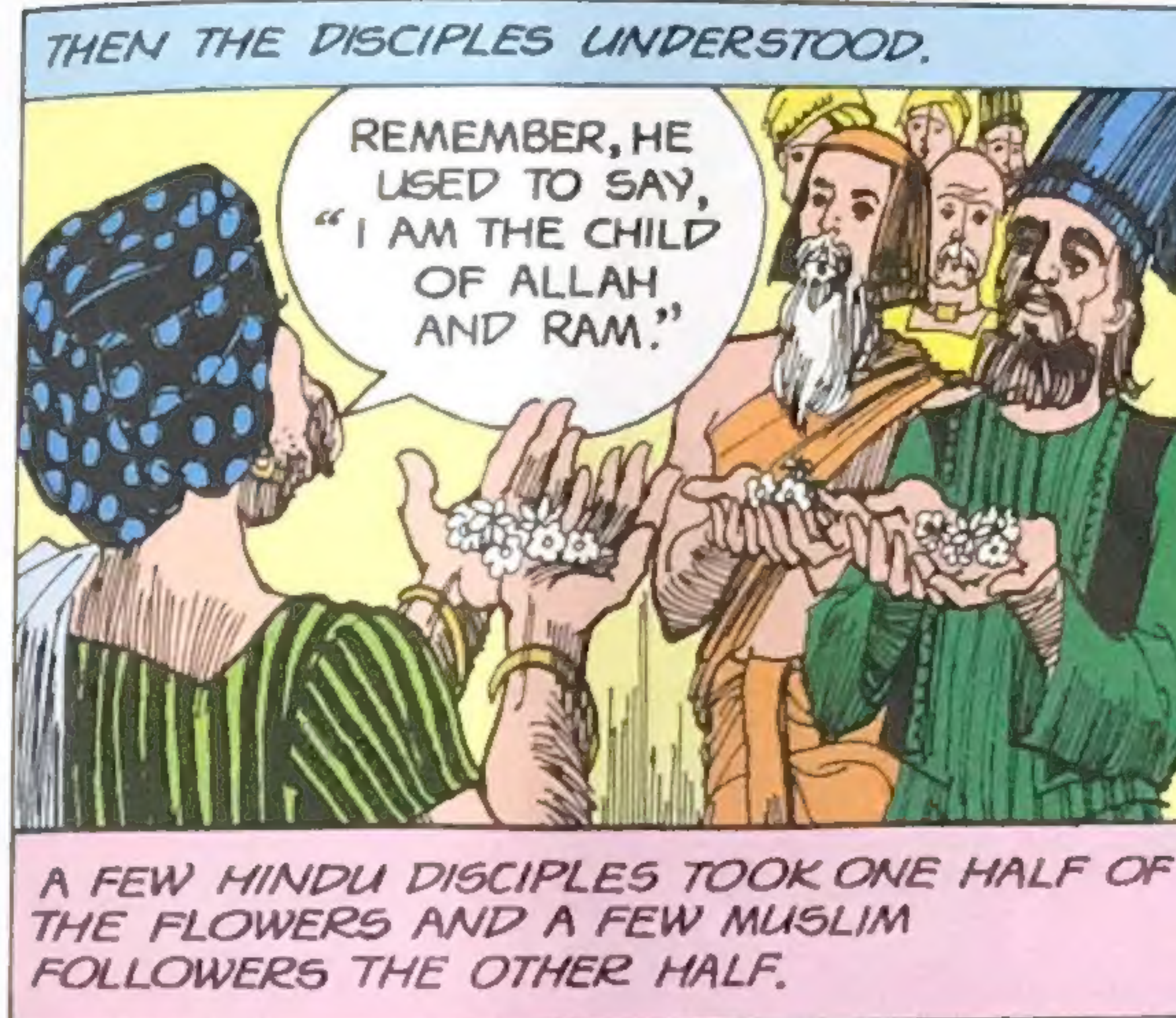
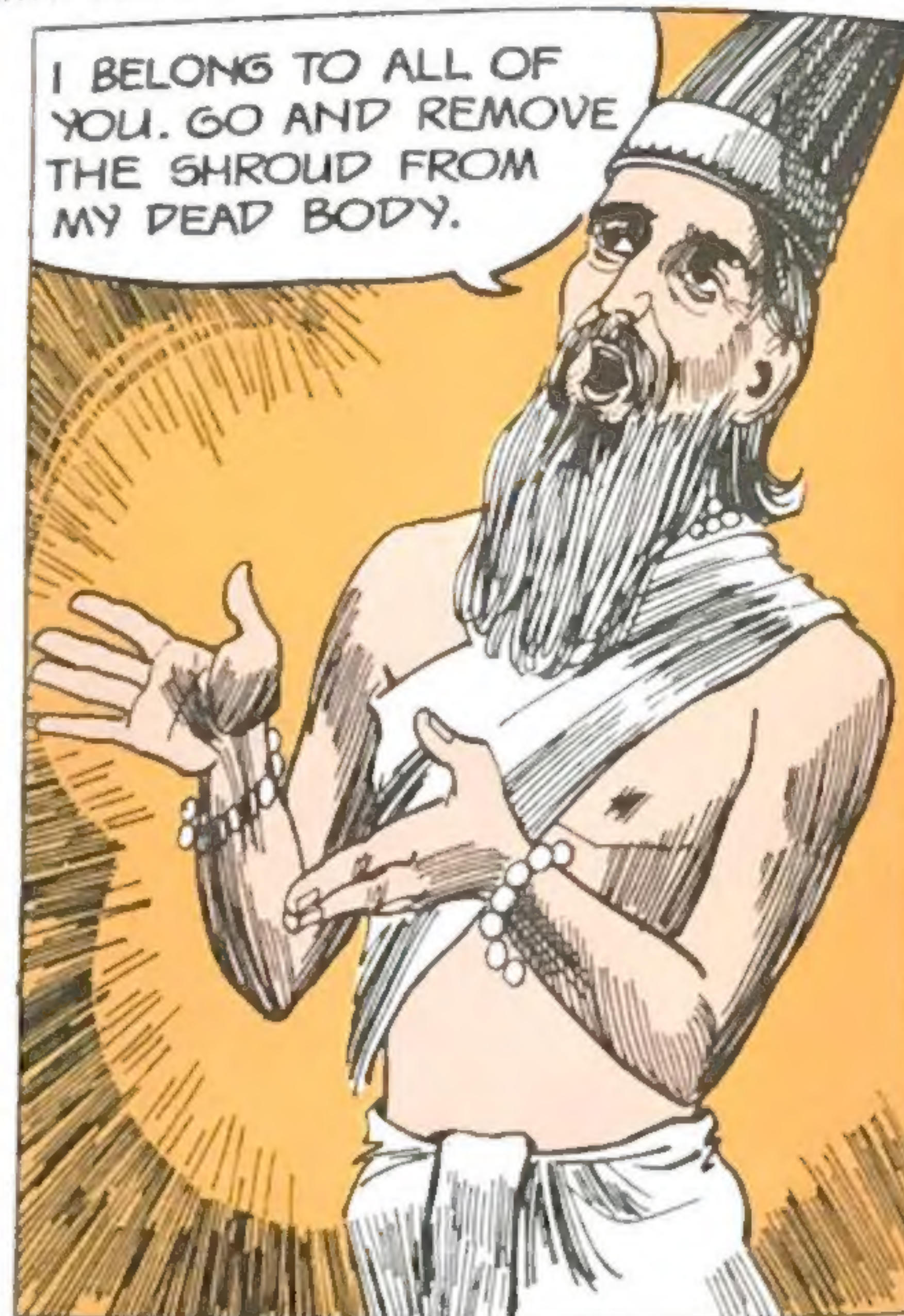
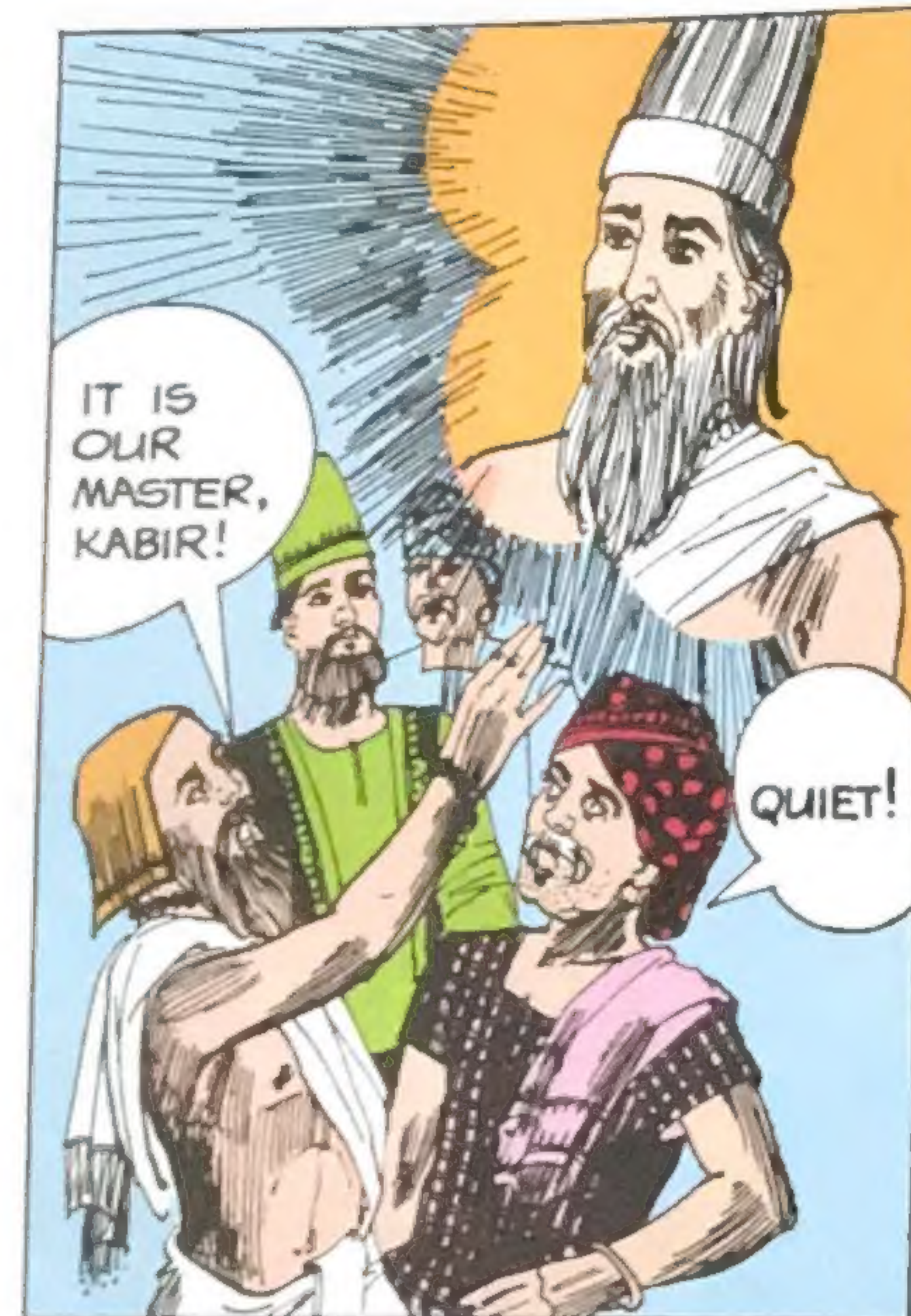


SOON THEREAFTER-



AS IN LIFE, SO IN DEATH KABIR HAD TO CONTEND WITH STUPID PEOPLE QUARRELLING.





HIS TEACHINGS SPREAD FAR AND WIDE. FORTUNATELY FOR US, WE CAN STILL IMBIBE THE MESSAGE OF KABIR AND THE SPIRIT OF HIS TEACHINGS FROM HIS WORDS, FOREVER PRESERVED IN THE GREAT WORK 'BINAK'.